Writers Notebook

<http://hill.troy.k12.mi.us/staff/bnewingham/myweb3/>

**Examples of Mini-Lessons**

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| **Content Focus** | **Conventions Focus** |
| * **Getting an idea -making lists -things you love -writing from emotion -experiences -moments in time** * **Adding detail** * **Adds responses/telling the inside story** * **Choice of words/ descriptive language** * **Replacing tired words** * **Great beginnings** * **Wow endings** * **One moment in time** * **Observations** * **"I wonder" writings** * **Something ordinary** * **Staying on focus** * **Working with a seed idea** * **Developing a plan for writing** * **Finding your voice** * **Genre studies: -poetry -informational reports -letters -autobiographies -biographies -picture books -persuasive -How-to books** | * **Use appropriate spacing** * **Spelling phonetically** * **Spell "High Frequency" words correctly** * **Spell using analogies** * **Capitalize I, names** * **Capitalize beginnings of sentences** * **Ending punctuation marks** * **Quotation marks** * **Commas** * **Use of "and"** * **Using appropriate grammar** * **Using paragraphs** * **Recognizing and correcting run-on sentences** |

**Compelling beginnings** <http://denaharrison.com/PDF/Little_Red_Riding_Hooks.pdf>

**Elaborating with details**

**Developing suspense**

**Discovering a story’s main event**

**Satisifying story ending**

**Effective dialogue**

**“Gathering Ideas”**

* Things we see that are interesting
* Very close observations of things, capturing sights, sounds, tastes, smells, moods, etc.
* Questions about a subject, a person, a thing, a place, etc.
* Lists of things we might want to think about later
* Quotes from music, movies, or books
* Writing generated from photographs
* Memories
* Ideas from news stories we hear
* Character ideas from interesting people we see
* Setting ideas from places we visit
* Entries about things that interest
* Research data
* Reflections about things we see, hear, or think
* Poetry
* Family stories that we know
* Writing generated from conversations we've had or have heard
* Lists of people or place names of interest
* Entries about things we care about
* Things we wonder about
* Celebrations or victories
* Dreams

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| **IDEAS:** *deciding what you will write about and finding details about your topic* |

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| **CONVENTIONS:** *using correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar* |

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| **WORD CHOICE:** *choosing and using words* |

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| **ORGANIZATION:** *hooking your reader with an interesting beginning, sequencing your story, and wrapping your story up with a just right ending* |

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| **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** *beginning sentences in different ways, writing long/short sentences, and rereading your story to check how it sounds* |

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| **VOICE:** *adding emotion/feeling to your story* |

writing center

mini lesson books and lessons

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| **Trait: Sentence fluency** | **Trait: Idea Development** | **Trait: organization** |
| **Skill:** | **Skill: Word choice**  **-Ted (book)** <http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/Ted1.htm>  **Using Adjectives**  **Using verbs( action and linking)**  **Nouns**  **Risk**  **Color and texture words** | **Skill:** |
| **Trait: voice** | **Trait: Idea development** | **Trait: conventions** |
| **Skill:**  **Books:**  **Book George Ella lyon**  **The Butterfly by patrcia Polacco**  **The class Artist G. Brian Karas**  **The Cut ups James Marshall**  **Dear. Mrs. Larue Letter from obedience schhol by mark Teague**  **The dot peter Reynolds**  **Freedom summer Deborah wiles**  **Joey pigza swolowed a key jack gantos**  **More than anything else marie bradby**  **The old whoman who named things Cynthia rylant** | **Skill: Show don’t tell**  **Show don’t tell the secrets of writing (book)**  <http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/Show-Dont-Tell1.htm>  <http://writingfix.com/PDFs/genres/EWG_Show_Tell_intro.pdf>  **Start with family**  What s your favorite plave in your home?  Do you have a pet? Get it? Name?  What is your fav, holiday to celebrate?  all the ways my sister bugs me  my top ten favoritre books of all time  all the tricks my dog can do  summertime treats  noises I can hear from my bed at night  the games I love most  what I’ve hidden in the back of my closet  bugs and animals that scare me  animals that I’d like to see in person  all the states I’ve visited or driven through  my least five favorite chores  books  a is for Abigail  dairy of a worm  earthshake poems from the ground up  fossil  the gardner  how do you raise a rasin?  How the elephant got it trunk  Mama loves Rebecca  On sand island  So you want to be an inventor?  Today I feel silly and other moods that make my day | **Skill:** |

Postit ideas <http://writingfix.com/PDFs/6_Traits/Trait_Post_Its_Idea_Development.pdf>