The Write Start

Building a Young Writers’ Community in Your Library

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This kid wanted to be a writer when she grew up:

(She still does!)
So, she decided to write some books.
Best Sellers Included:

The Strang Little Girl

PETER’S DOG by Caitlin McDonald Corless

Nobody’s Perfect by Caitlin McDonald Corless
THE TOMBOY

by Caitlin ModDonald Corless
Her parents and sisters loved her books and gave them all 5 stars.
One day, a visiting writer came to visit her fourth grade class.
She was so excited to get to work with a **REAL** WRITER!
But it turned out that the real writer was sort of a jerk and wasn’t very good with kids. He pointed out all of the things that were wrong with her writing.
when She went home that day, She cried and cried and cried, and told her parents she didn’t want to be a writer anymore.
Wouldn’t it have been great if she’d had a group that encouraged her to write, a group that helped her express her creativity, a space where she could share her work?
(This is where we step in!)
Creative writing at the Library!
(For the record, Miss Zarzicki was awesome. When she heard I went home and cried, she told the guy off and convinced me to keep writing!)
“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once (s)he grows up.”

-Pablo Picasso
Do you like to write?

Join us for our Drop-In Creative Writing Workshop!

Wednesdays at 3:30

For ages 9+
CREATIVE writing is about CREATIVITY

Grammar  Spelling  Perfection
Cutting edge technology like this not necessary
If possible, purchase a notebook and pencil for every kid. Gives young writers more pride and ownership of their work.
Chips Ahoy! Chewy
Connecting with Schools

- Make arrangements to meet at the School
  - After School Program
- Contact teachers and librarians to spread the word
The Writing Club
Wednesday at Essex Free Library
3:30-4:30
ESSEX FREE LIBRARY WRITING CLUB

Please Come Because:

Essex Free Library is doing a writing club Wednesday after school!! Please bring your child in. It's free, and there will be a snack. Please tell friends that this is happening and it's for kids 9 and up. You don't need to come every time. Please pass the word.

We are trying to make a Magazine and need your help.

PLEASE COME

Essex Free Library,
Wednesdays 3:30-4:30

Thanks.
Creative Writing Workshops

• Writing Prompts - Ideas to start writing
• Writing Exercises
• Games!
Fiction or Nonfiction?
(2 Truths & a Lie)

I like water
I like to draw
I have a friend named David
Bio Poem

How to Write a Biopoem

(Line 1) First name

(Line 2) Three or four adjectives that describe the person

(Line 3) Important relationship (daughter of . . . , mother of . . . , etc.)

(Line 4) Two or three things, people, or ideas that the person loved

(Line 5) Three feelings the person experienced

(Line 6) Three foods the person experienced

(Line 7) Accomplishments (who composed . . . , who discovered . . . , etc.)

(Line 8) Two or three things the person wanted to see happen or wanted to experience

(Line 9) His or her residence

(Line 10) Last name

Writing Exercises
“Writing from the Heart”

Keep a collection of things you know or care about so that you never suffer writer’s block.

http://www.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/h/HPLesSon1_Final.pdf
Popsicle Stick Prompt

- Gym Teacher
- Limousine
- Hammer
Wordless Picture Books

Have writers write (or tell) what they see happening in the illustrations. Who are the main characters? What is the setting? What challenges does the character face and overcome?
Photo Prompts


Match the dog to the owner. Explain.
Fractured Fairy Tales

Stories that use fairy tales you know and then change the characters, the setting, points of view, or plots.
Scholastic

STORY STARTERS

Choose a Story Starter Series:

- Adventure
- Fantasy
- Sci Fi
- Scrambler
Project out in the snowman, thinking how dirty it was.

Project discovered himself, with a boy in his room, as a result of different stories.

just on the other side of that window, thought the pig, could be my chance to fly.

The pig animal of Stories are playing, pig flying between on the window.

The things up for pulling through.

Open window.
Mad Libs

**A VISIT TO THE DENTIST**

A comic play to be performed by two . . .

PATIENT: Thank you so very much for seeing me, Doctor.

DENTIST: It's no trouble at all. I notice . . .

DENTIST: What is your problem, young . . .

PATIENT: I have a pain in my upper . . .

DENTIST: Let me give you a look. Open your . . .

Good. Now I'm going to tap your . . .

PATIENT: Shouldn't you give me a mouth . . .

DENTIST: It's not necessary yet. . . .

PATIENT: Are you going to pull my . . .

DENTIST: No. I'm going to . . .

PATIENT: When do I come back for the . . .

DENTIST: A day after I finish your . . .

**Warning:** writers may be tempted to be a bit inappropriate.
Write Your Own!

Directions

1. Start by writing a story, fairy tale, and/or letter or how to paragraph on the First Draft sheet.
2. Use a highlighter to mark at least ten important story words.
3. For each highlighted word, look up its part of speech in a dictionary.
4. List the parts of speech on the Clue List in the same order they appear in the story.
5. Once you have made your clue list, rewrite your story on the Final Draft sheet, replacing the highlighted words with blanks.
6. Write the appropriate clue in parentheses under the blank.
7. Ask a classmate to supply words that fill your Clue List.
8. Transfer your classmate’s Clue List words into the appropriate blanks on your Final Draft.
9. Have fun reading the Mad Libs Jill with your classmate!
For the talkative crew...

- Conversations!
  - Set up scenario
  - Pair up
  - Write!
Encourage writers to share, but don’t pressure them!
When Someone is Sharing,

- Listen.
- Respond with respect and encouragement!
- Concentrate on the positives:
  - “What did the writer do well? What did you like about it?”
You write, too!

"That was actually pretty good..."
Poetry Slams & Open Mics

- Open mics for poetry, music, some karaoke. :)

- Coffeehouse atmosphere
  - Baked goods, drinks

- Sound system, microphone if possible to make it OFFICIAL
Unintimidating, welcoming, and respectful atmosphere
Other Opportunities

- Young Writers Project
  - [http://youngwritersproject.org/](http://youngwritersproject.org/)

- PBS Kids Writers Contest
  - [http://www.vpt.org/writers](http://www.vpt.org/writers)

Author Visits

- Jo Knowles
- S.S. Taylor
- Rachel Carter
- Doris Weeks
- Jane Manning
A Writers' Workshop with Jo Knowles!

Come meet and work with the author of See You at Harry's, a new DCF book!

Saturday, April 6th at 2:00 at Essex Free Library

AUTHOR VISIT

Meet S.S. Taylor, author of the DCF book "The Expeditioners!"

August 2nd at 6:30 at Essex Free Library
Teen Spoken Word Workshop

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
at 11 Market Street

Burlington, Vermont

Find your voice with performance poet Lisa Fox in this one-night event. Fox offers budding writers a chance to sharpen spoken word skills through a highly rhythmic, theatrically engaging form of poetry.

The workshop is geared toward teens but open to all ages. Please bring notebook, pen, and your enthusiasm! This is a free event!

wwwLOCALpoetry.com
Rachel Carter, author of the So Close to You trilogy
Vermont Author Contacts


Skyping with Authors

Some authors offer free 15-20 minute Skype sessions with book clubs and classes.

Some Great Writing Books!
Excerpt from the Golden Nugget:

The next day he went to the Plainville Public Library. He brought his rock with him to see if it was a golden nugget or not. He walked up to her and asked. She smiled and said, “It sure is.”