

# COMMUNITY FINE ARTS AWARD



## PROJECT: CREATIVE WRITING

### GOALS

**A. WRITING BASICS:** Learn three skills to improve your creative writing.

**B. WRITING CHALLENGE:** Write a short story using one of the suggested story prompts.

### A. WRITING BASICS

Creative writers craft short stories, long novels, essays, a biography, journals, or poetry. You use words to explain a situation or problem, describe feelings, make a point, or tell an engaging story.

#### Writing Tips (Learn 3.)

Writing does not just happen. Use techniques to become the best!

- Write often.* Don't worry about writing something great each time. Write often about anything that interests you.
- Start short.* For the sake of this project we will start with a very short story. Longer works can come with experience.
- Rewrite.* Reread your work and edit constantly. Carefully rewrite your sentences, add in descriptions, move paragraphs around. No one gets it right the first time. The more you re-write, the better you will become!

### B. WRITING CHALLENGE

Pick one of the following three writing prompts to complete to practice your creative writing skills.

#### Option 1—Descriptions


To become a creative writer, stretch and challenge yourself to describe something in such a way that the reader can almost touch the location, taste the food, or see the person you are describing. When you begin a description, there are several rules of thumb—use wonderful adjectives (describing words) but stay simple enough to be easily understood.

**WRITING EXAMPLE:** Adrian lifted the warm slice of pizza to his mouth, licking his lips as he smelled Italian spices and sweet tomato sauce. Mozzarella cheese dripped off the edge of the slice and landed on his plate. Large slices of spicy pepperoni covered the top of the pizza. He smiled with anticipation.

When you describe something, you show your readers what something is like with words, instead of just stating a fact: "Adrian ate a piece of pizza."

#### Writing Prompt

Now it's your turn to describe a food or a dining experience with great description! Grab a separate piece of paper and write at least a paragraph of description.



## □ Option 2—Characters

When you write a character, don't share every detail about him/her/it right away. Give clues about your character and mention likes and dislikes, strengths, and history along the way! Your readers will "get to know" the character as your story unfolds.

### **Character Details**

Before you write, plan out the details of your character. Use the following prompts to help you flesh out your character's personality.

- Your character's two best qualities
- Your character's two worst weaknesses
- Your character's appearance
- Where your character lives
- Two significant friendships or relationships

**WRITING TIP:** Avoid over-describing your character's appearance. Too many specifics become awkward. It is good to let your readers put a little of their own imagination to work as they read.

### **Writing Prompt**

Write a starting paragraph introducing a character, then launch into one of his/her/its first actions or words for a story. End with a "to be continued"—don't worry about concluding the story yet.

## □ Option 3—Plot (Story line)

Create an outline of the plot and storyline. In storytelling, descriptions and people are a good start, but something must happen! Use the following to help guide the "big events" of your story.

### □ **Step 1—Titles and Scenarios (Big Idea)**

1. Pick one of the following titles to inspire a story:

- "Stranded on a Deserted Island"
- "The Greatest Invention"
- "The Mad Scientist"
- "The Boy Who Could Fly"

2. Or pick one of the following scenarios:

- You won a contest or competition
- You have lunch with a famous person
- The most awkward moment at school
- Someone just acquired an unusual pet

**WRITING TIP:** In order for your story to be interesting, the situation or people must change or move. Choose a writing prompt that peaks your curiosity, that you are excited to write about.



**□ Step 2–Timeline**

Now that you’ve chosen the subject of your story, use the following to flesh out the timeline of the story.

- The beginning situation
- The conflict, problem, or change
- The response to conflict, problem, or change
- The ending

**WRITING TIP:** After you pick your “big idea” for the story, create your basic roadmap using short sentences to show where the story will go. Keep it simple!

**Writing Prompt**

Now that your “big idea” and timeline is completed, begin writing your story! Keep the story short, but be sure to highlight events that you have chosen in your plot outline.

**RESEARCH MORE**

- *The I Love to Write Book-Ideas and Tips for Young Writers* by Mary-Lane Kamberg
- *Rip the Page! Adventures in Creative Writing* by Karen Benke
- *Spilling Ink: A Young Writer’s Handbook* by Ellen Potter
- *Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly* by Gail Carson Levine
- Visit [hemingwayapp.com](http://hemingwayapp.com) to edit your text. Paste your text into the website. You’ll receive notes and suggestions about how to improve grammar and sentence structure.

*My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic–**Creative Writing**.*

Adult Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Complete SIX projects to earn your FINE ARTS award)*