What Will You Write About?

A couple of weeks ago, we suggested some great summer reading books. But you could also write your own book this summer!

It all takes is a quiet place, ideas, paper and pencil or a computer. Why not become an author? Try to write several times a week.

Writing is like playing ball or jumping rope: Some kids keep their ideas in a notebook so that when they have time to write, they can get started more easily.


close times

To make it easier, here are some tips:

Step 1: Think

Think about what you are going to write about. You can do this almost anywhere.

Some kids keep their ideas in a notebook so that when they have time to write, they can get started more easily.

Step 2: Organize

Organize your ideas. Make a list, a chart, or an outline or a web diagram.

The main topic or idea goes in the circle in the middle. The parts of the idea branch out from the main circle. The details branch off next.

Step 3: Write

Write your story, poem or information. Right now the most important thing is to get your ideas down. These first attempts are called “working copy” or “drafts.”

Step 4: Read and rewrite

Read your draft to yourself several times. Think about how you could improve it. Are there details you could add that would make it more interesting? Is there anything in the draft that is confusing?

Read your draft aloud. Making changes is hard, but it makes your writing better.

Step 5: Edit

When you are satisfied with your draft, edit it. That means you check to make sure you have the correct spelling and punctuation. It’s OK to get help with this. Even the best writers get help from editors.

Step 6: Publish

Think about how you could publish your writing. You could rewrite it in your best handwriting or type it on a computer. You can make a book or write a script for a movie or play. You might add pictures or decorations.

Mini Fact: Experts say writing during the summer will help you jump back into school more easily in the fall.

Mini Jokes

Tim: What does a cat have that no other animal has?

Talk: Kittens!

Patty: What is green and likes to peck at trees?

Pierre: Woody Woodpickle!

Try ’n’ Find

Words that remind us of summer writing are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AUTHOR, COMPUTER, COPY, DICTIONARY, DRAFT, EDIT, IDEAS, IMPROVE, NOTEBOOK, ORGANIZE, PRACTICE, PUBLISH, READING, RECESS, SHARE, SUBJECT, SUMMER, THINK, TOPIC, WEB, WRITING.

Cook’s Corner

Chicken Strips With Orange Marmalade Ketchup

You’ll need:

• 1/2 cup orange marmalade
• 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
• 1 teaspoon liquid smoke

What to do:

1. Coat a stovetop grill pan or griddle with cooking spray and preheat over medium-high heat. Season chicken strips with salt and pepper.

2. Add strips to hot pan and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, turning frequently, until golden brown and cooked through.

3. In a small saucepan, combine other ingredients. Mix well and bring to a simmer, then decrease heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Serve strips with dunking sauce on the side.

Mini Fact:

You can do this almost anywhere.

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Try using a web diagram to organize your thoughts.

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You have learned about webbing in school. It’s a way to get your ideas out of your mind and onto paper.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of writing.

asdie ecopmuqnl lpsel okbso

Answers: ideas, computer, spell, books.

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