

FEBRUARY Writing Activities

February is a great time for appreciating the past, reflecting on the present, and working toward the future. Use writing to help students realize these goals.

Word Bank Words

shadow	envelope
weather	stamp
burrow	Washington
card	Lincoln
valentine	president
heart	candy
groundhog	

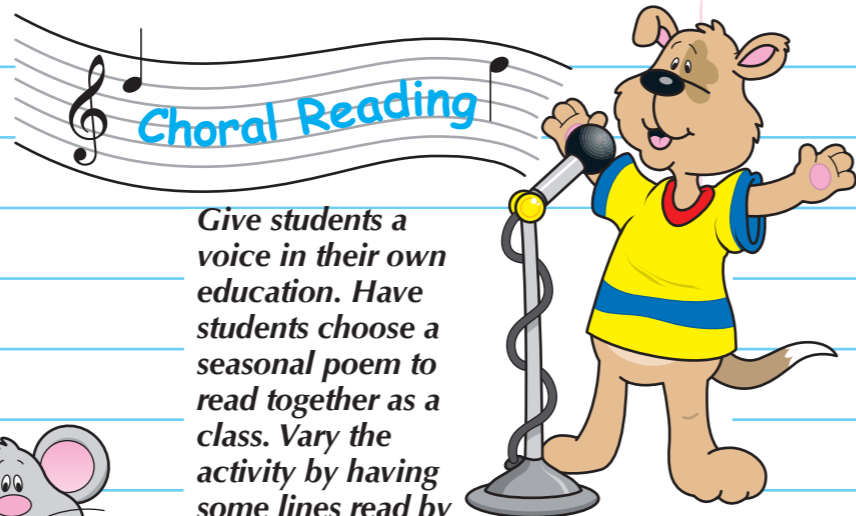
Tasty Treats

Show students how sweet descriptive writing can be! Provide candy labels for students to read. Point out the descriptive words often used to talk about the taste and texture of candy. Give each student a piece of candy to enjoy as they write descriptions about its flavor and texture.

Student Spelling Sentences

Motivate students to write creative and interesting sentences for their spelling words using this idea. Collect the sentences students write for a spelling list and choose the most original ones to read aloud during the weekly spelling test. Award extra points to the students who have sentences chosen.

My heart smiled when I saw the valentine.



Choral Reading

Give students a voice in their own education. Have students choose a seasonal poem to read together as a class. Vary the activity by having some lines read by one or several students, or by alternating groups of students. Have the class select important passages and let different students read the lines aloud, emphasizing different words and phrases each time. Discuss the way pace, tone, and volume affect the line readings.

The Life of a Superhero

Have students imagine what life would be like if they could be superheroes. Instruct them to write about what special powers they would have and how they would help others. Let students draw themselves wearing special costumes and write descriptions of how they might look.



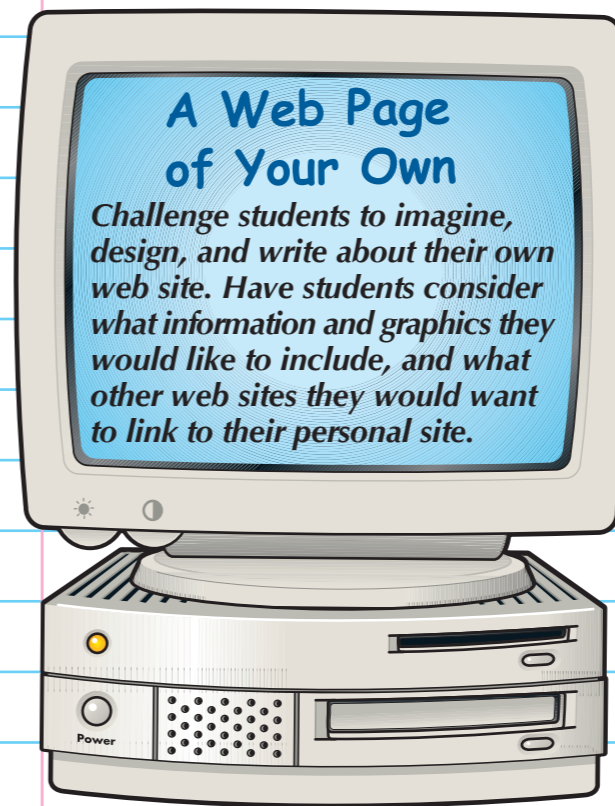
Strengths, Suggestions, Questions

Help peer editors stay focused and provide writers with useful information using this technique. When reviewing a classmate's work, have the editor fold a piece of paper into three columns labeled Strengths, Suggestions, and Questions. Have editors write at least one thing in each column, then pass the sheet back to the writer with the draft.

Strengths	Suggestions	Questions
It was a very interesting story.	Please add more details to the story.	What happened after the end of the story?
There was a lot of humor in the story.	Clarify who the characters were.	How did the mother react?

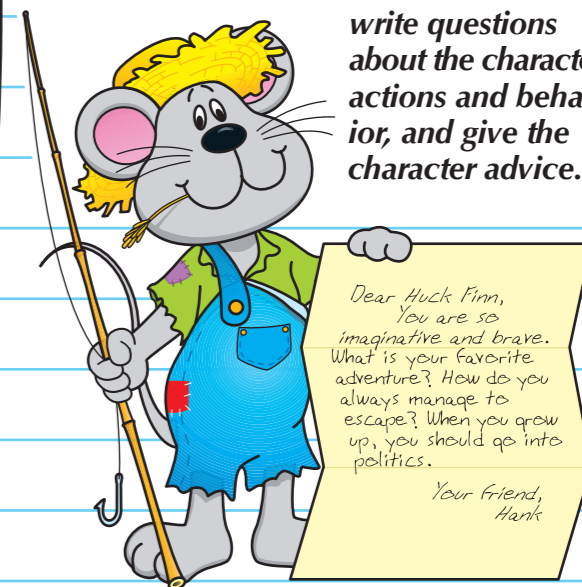
A Web Page of Your Own

Challenge students to imagine, design, and write about their own web site. Have students consider what information and graphics they would like to include, and what other web sites they would want to link to their personal site.



Character Letters

Use this activity to combine character analysis and letter writing practice. Allow students to choose a character from a favorite story and write a letter to the character. Have students write questions about the character's actions and behavior, and give the character advice.



Dear Huck Finn,
You are so imaginative and brave. What is your favorite adventure? How do you always manage to escape? When you grow up, you should go into politics.

Your friend,
Mark

Story Cubes

Teach students how to "shape" a personal narrative with this great exercise. Have each student cut out a simple six-sided cube pattern. Number the sections 1-6. In the first section, have students write the introduction to a personal narrative. In sections two, three, and four, have them write events from the story. In section five, write the climax to the story. In the last section, write the story ending. Let students fold the pattern to form a cube and secure the sides with tape. To read the story, start in section one and read each side in order.

