

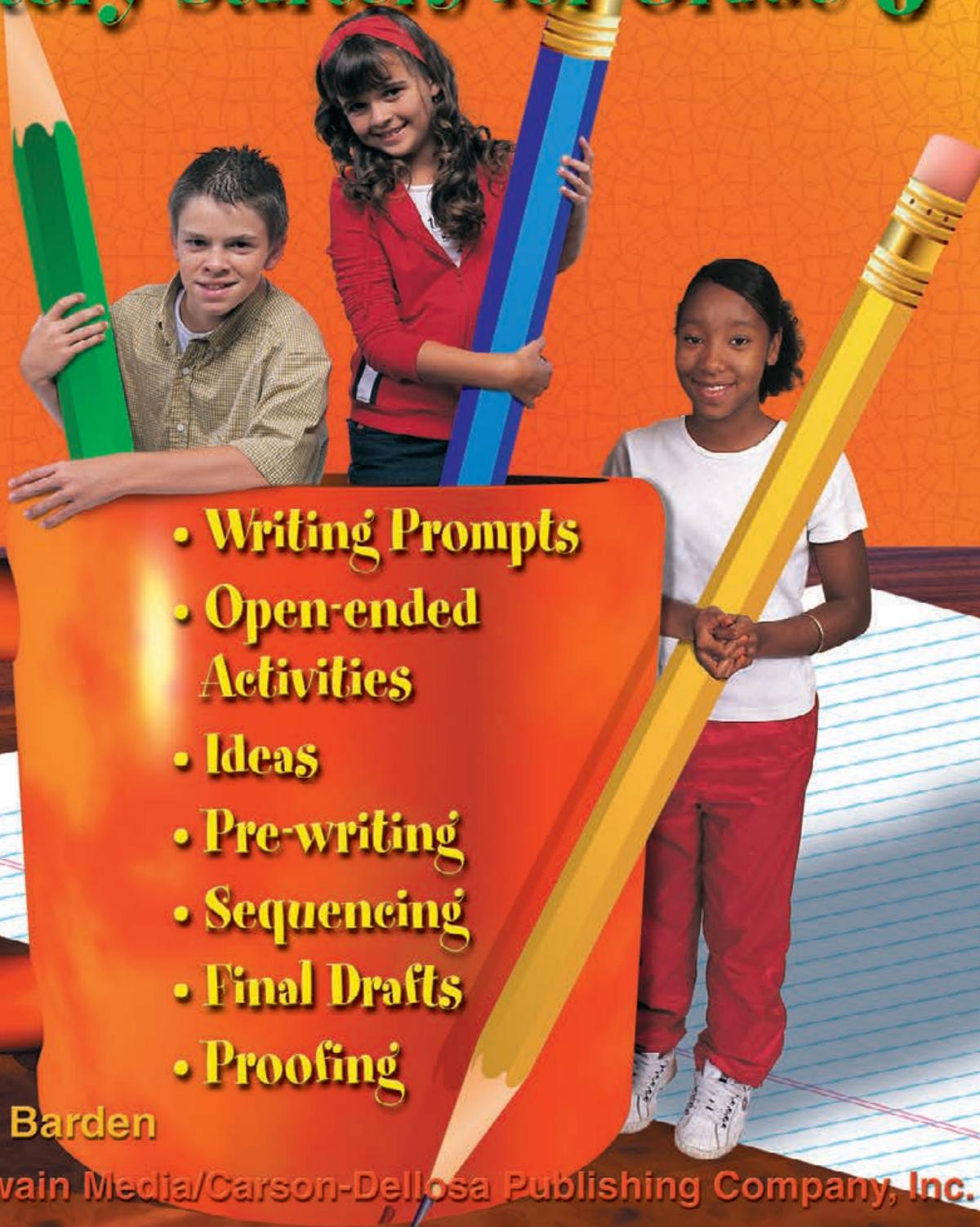


1587-EB

Language Arts Activity Book

Grade
6

Ready, Set, Write: Story Starters for Grade 6



- Writing Prompts
- Open-ended Activities
- Ideas
- Pre-writing
- Sequencing
- Final Drafts
- Proofing

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Revising, Editing, and Proofreading Guide

Carefully reread what you wrote. Use the checklist below to revise and edit your writing.

Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation

- ✓ Did you begin each sentence with a capital letter?
- ✓ Do all sentences have end punctuation?
- ✓ Do all sentences have subjects and predicates?
- ✓ Do your subjects and predicates agree with each other?
- ✓ Are all words spelled correctly?
- ✓ Did you capitalize all proper nouns?
- ✓ Do all of your sentences make sense?

Nonfiction writing

- ✓ Is your topic sentence interesting?
- ✓ Does your topic sentence express the main idea?
- ✓ Do all of your sentences stick to the main idea?
- ✓ Did you give specific examples?
- ✓ Did you present the main points in the right order?
- ✓ Did you leave out any important information?
- ✓ Did you include too much information?
- ✓ Does your conclusion sentence or paragraph sum up the main idea?

Fiction writing

- ✓ Are your characters believable?
- ✓ Is the dialogue realistic?
- ✓ Will the reader be able to visualize the setting?
- ✓ Is the character's problem or challenge clearly stated?
- ✓ Is the solution reasonable?
- ✓ Are the events arranged in a logical order?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ideas, Ideas, Everywhere: Writing Ideas

Do you ever get stumped for writing ideas? Don't despair—ideas are everywhere. Many activities in this book will provide suggestions for essays and stories. Scattered throughout this book are other ideas in the "IDEA BANK" to save for another day.

When you think of a good writing idea, save it in your own idea bank. Jot it down before it floats off into the air and dissolves like a wispy cloud on a windy day. Save your ideas in a notebook or an old shoebox; any place will do as long as you can find them when you need them.

Personal Experiences: Unusual or amusing experiences can be good writing topics. Write some ideas on the lines below.

Your bedroom is probably filled with writing ideas:

- Did you ever pretend that your old, battered stuffed animal was real when you were little?
- Do you remember who gave it to you and when?
- How about that old baseball mitt—the one you used to catch the pop fly for the third out in the last inning?
- Or was that the one you didn't catch?



Look around your bedroom. Write ideas for possible topics on the lines below.

Memories are great writing topics. **Old photos** often bring back happy memories.

- Do you remember the day you got your first baseball cap?
- Or the day you went to the beach and found that seashell?
- How about the first time you spent the night at your grandparents' house?

Look through photos. Write ideas for possible topics on the lines below.

Writing Tips

Whether you're sending an e-mail to a friend or preparing a ten-page report, following these tips will help you write better.

Decide on a topic before you begin writing.

- In an e-mail to a friend, the topic might be your vacation in Australia.
- In a report, the topic could be the effect of weather on classroom performance.

Narrow the focus of your topic.

- Your e-mail could focus on one particular event during your vacation, like a visit to a volcano or a ride in a glass-bottomed boat.
- Your report could focus on the effects of cloudy days on student performance.

Gather ideas.

- For an e-mail to a friend, gathering ideas may be a “think-about-it step.”
- For a report, this would involve checking reference sources, doing surveys, gathering data, etc.

Organize your material.

- For your e-mail, you will probably tell what happened in sequential order.
- For a report, you could make an outline to organize the main ideas with examples or explanations for each main point.

Write the first draft.

- Don't worry if it gets messy as you cross out words or move sentences around.

Proofread.

- Correct errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Edit and revise.

- Make any other changes to improve your writing.

Rewrite.

- Write the final copy.

Double-check.

- Go back and read through what you wrote one more time.

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Mysterious Sound: Topic Sentences

A paragraph is a group of sentences about a specific topic. The **topic sentence** introduces the main idea of the paragraph. You should always write an interesting topic sentence to encourage the reader to continue reading.

Write three different topic sentences you might use to begin a paragraph about each subject below. Use your own paper if you need more room.

1. A mysterious sound heard at night: _____

2. Being lost: _____

3. An unusual dream: _____

4. A person you would like to meet: _____

5. Make an "X" in front of your best sentence for each topic.

6. Save this page to use with the next activity.

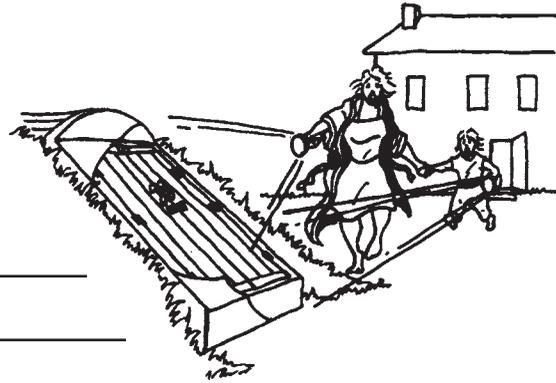
Name: _____ Date: _____

The Middle Provides Support: Supporting Sentences

Topic sentences are followed by **supporting sentences** that provide interesting information about the topic, give examples, or provide additional details and descriptions.

Write two sentences that could follow each topic sentence.

1. As the siren wailed, we grabbed our flashlights and raced for the cellar.



2. My memories of the best day of my life are as clear to me now as they were on that special, unforgettable day.

3. Rewrite your best topic sentence from the last activity. Add supporting sentences.

4. Save this page to use with the next activity.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Wrap It Up!: Conclusion Sentences

The **conclusion sentence** of a paragraph restates the main idea or sums up the main points in a paragraph.

Write two different conclusion sentences for each paragraph from the previous page.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. Make an "X" in front of your best conclusion sentence for each topic.

5. Save this page to use with the next activity.



Name: _____ Date: _____

All Together Now: Writing a Paragraph

Writing Prompt: Write a paragraph using one of your topic sentences or conclusion sentences from the previous activities.

1. Topic sentence: _____

2. Supporting sentences: _____

3. Conclusion sentence: _____

4. Proofread, edit, and revise your work. Rewrite your final draft on your own paper.

** If you like any of your other ideas from these activities but you didn't use them, save them in your IDEA BANK.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Adults Need Recess Too: Author's Purpose

Authors write for many reasons:

- A. to entertain
- B. to provide information
- C. to persuade
- D. to express opinions

Determine the author's purpose for each example. Write A, B, C, or D.



1. _____ A newspaper article about a proposed new law
2. _____ A magazine article about an athlete
3. _____ A humorous article about eating spaghetti
4. _____ Directions for building a birdhouse
5. _____ An editorial about why people should not re-elect the mayor
6. _____ An article about why everyone should take a vacation in the Sahara Desert
7. Write a topic sentence for a humorous article about why adults should have recess.

8. Write a topic sentence for an informational essay about the benefits of riding a bicycle.

9. Write a topic sentence to persuade people to vote for you for mayor of your city.

10. Write a topic sentence that expresses your opinion about UFOs.

** Why adults need recess might be a good topic to save in your IDEA BANK.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Strange, But True: Writing an Anecdote

An **anecdote** is a short personal account of something unusual or amusing that actually happened. An anecdote might be about an unexpected surprise, an embarrassing moment, or a time when something turned out differently than you expected.

Writing Prompt: Write an anecdote about an unusual personal experience.

1. Topic sentence: _____

2. Supporting sentences: _____

3. Conclusion sentence: _____

4. Proofread, edit, and revise your work. Rewrite your final draft on your own paper.

** Save ideas about other unusual situations or personal experiences in your IDEA BANK.

Name: _____ Date: _____

What If Ostriches Could Fly?: "What If?" Ideas

Asking "what if?" questions can provide many writing ideas. A question like "What if Snow White hadn't eaten the poisoned apple?" could provide ideas for writing different endings to that fairy tale.

"What if people could travel anywhere instantly?" could provide ideas for an exciting science fiction story.



For each topic, write a "what if?" question.

1. Television: What if _____
_____?
2. Cinderella: What if _____
_____?
3. Volcanoes: What if _____
_____?
4. Dinosaurs: What if _____
_____?
5. Parents: What if _____
_____?
6. Hands: What if _____
_____?
7. Wind: What if _____
_____?
8. The mayor of your city: What if _____
_____?

Writing Prompt: On your own paper, write the first draft of your narrative that answers one of your "what if?" questions. Include a title.

Proofread, edit, and revise your work before writing the final draft on your own paper.

** Include "what if" questions in your IDEA BANK for future story ideas.