



## GETTING READY FOR GRADE FIVE WRITING

Students entering Grade Five are ready to take responsibility for their own writing projects. Below you will see a list of possible writing project ideas along with a blank summer calendar. Children should select one – or several – project ideas and use the calendar to plan their time. Every few days, children should be encouraged to review their calendar to monitor and adjust the pacing of their projects. At the bottom of this document you will see a sample calendar. It is only an example; each and every child’s calendar will look different based on the decisions they make. **Children are encouraged to complete these tasks in any language.**

**Spelling:** Students are *not* expected to spell every word perfectly. Writers at this age should:

- Use two vowels to make long vowel sounds.
- Double consonants when adding -ed or -ing to short vowel words (*example: clapping*)
- Spell high frequency words “Word Wall Words” correctly using a chart as a reference (chart attached).
- Edit using spell-check & auto-correct mindfully – Do the sounds make sense?

**Below you will find:**

1. Writing project ideas. Students may choose one or invent their own writing projects.
2. A blank summer calendar – to be filled in by children based on their writing project plans
3. A chart of high-frequency words that should be spelled correctly
4. A sample summer calendar

# Writing Project Ideas

Project Title:	Directions:
<p><b>Realistic Fiction</b> Realistic fiction is a great way to deal with the social issues that kids your age often have to face.</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a real-life character. Draw a sketch of your character and jot down external &amp; internal traits.</li> <li>• Come up with a real-life problem that your character will need to solve. Consider the social issues that kids your age have to face.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a story mountain to consider: Who? Wants What? But! So...So What? (Make sure you've considered the life lesson or the theme of your story.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you write your lead, make sure you leave clues about character traits and the problem of the story.</li> <li>• Weave between action, dialogue, thoughts, and feeling.</li> <li>• Have fun playing around with metaphors</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise: Did you weave between action, dialogue, thoughts, &amp; feelings? Does your story make sense?</li> <li>• Edit: Did you use paragraphs? Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly? Do your auto-corrections make sense?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share with a friend or family member!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Letter Writing</b> Summer is a great time to connect with all the people we like – both near and far!</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea &amp; Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a list of people you want to connect with this summer. Decide how you will write to them: email? send a card? a letter?</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to writing at least one letter a day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Editing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure your letters are readable to the person you are sending it to.</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send them off!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Journaling</b> Journaling is a great way to remember all the things that happen to us.</p>	<p>Writing in a journal helps us process our thoughts and feelings. YOU are the only audience for this type of writing so you can write ANYTHING you want. If you like, you might even want to include some sketches or doodles.</p>

<p><b>Invent a Diary</b> Lots of authors imagine the diaries of invented characters. Have fun creating your own imaginary diary.</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a character. Draw a sketch of your character and jot down external &amp; internal traits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jot down a list of problems, issues, or situations that might affect your character.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have fun getting into the mind of your character. Try to write in their voice. Feel free to include sketches or doodles that the character might draw.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise – Read through your diary entries – is there anything that might reveal more about your character?</li> <li>• Edit: Did you use paragraphs? Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly? Do your auto-corrections make sense?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gratitude Journal</b> Gratitude journals often lead to a deeper feeling of happiness. Try it out!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every day list 3-5 things that you are grateful for. Be as specific as you can. <i>Instead of writing “My family,” You could write “I’m grateful how my dad makes me sandwiches for lunch and always remembers to cut the crusts off.”</i></li> <li>• Set a timer for 10 minutes. Choose one item off your gratitude journal and free write as much as you can about it. If you run out of ideas, choose another item off your list. Keep writing until the timer runs out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feature Article</b> How can you help others know and care about a topic that you love? Feature articles are one way that we can help our readers become experts about topics that are important to us.</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick a topic you know a lot about.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a list of subtopics that will explain your topic. You might even want to use boxes &amp; bullets to help you organize the supporting details that match your subtopics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to help your reader know as much as you do about your topic.</li> <li>• Teach your reader all of the technical or “expert” words that they will need to know to become an expert themselves.</li> <li>• Use text features to teach them more.</li> <li>• Try to write in a way that will make your reader care about your topic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise: Did you use expert words? Is your article organized around subtopics? Did you add text features?</li> <li>• Edit: Did you use paragraphs? Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly? Do your auto-corrections make sense?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing</b> Share with a friend or family member!</p>

<p><b>Scientific Journaling</b> How can you document the world around you?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a walk outside. Find a plant, flower, rock, pinecone, etc. that you wish to sketch.</li> <li>• Scientific illustrators try to draw as carefully as possible. Take your time, observe closely, and draw accurately.</li> <li>• Make observational notes about what you sketched. You might want to measure, use numbers, or use precise vocabulary to describe the way the items look, feel, sound, or smell.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Graphic Novel</b> Graphic novels are a great way to put your drawing skills &amp; your writing skills to work as you tell a story.</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a character. Draw a sketch of your character and jot down external &amp; internal traits.</li> <li>• Come up with a problem that your character will need to solve.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study a graphic novel mentor text. What does the writer do to help the reader understand &amp; enjoy the story?</li> <li>• Make a plan for the beginning, middle and end of your story.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your story using illustrations, narration boxes, thought bubbles, and voice bubbles.</li> <li>• Don't forget about sound words! <i>Example: ZOINK!</i></li> <li>• Play around with zooming in and zooming out as you illustrate the action.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise: Did you include writing in MOST of the boxes? Does your story make sense?</li> <li>• Edit: Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing</b> Share with a friend or family member!</p>
<p><b>Fan Fiction</b> Fan fiction is a genre where you can write your own chapters to the books you love by other authors.</p>	<p><b>Choosing an idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a favorite book. Decide on a character that you would like to focus on from that book. Decide if you will write a short story or an extra chapter.</li> <li>• Come up with a problem that your character will need to solve.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reread the book you love as a writer. What moves did the author do to help you love the story?</li> <li>• Make a plan for the beginning, middle and end of your story.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a chapter or a short story about the character. Try to incorporate some of the writing moves that the author used in the original book.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise: Did you include some writing moves that matches the author? Does your story make sense?</li> <li>• Edit: Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing:</b> Share with a friend or family member!</p>

## Fantasy

Fantasy is a genre that lets your imagination run free!

### Choosing an idea:

- Develop a setting – what kind of world will your characters live in?
- Develop a main character – be sure to consider internal and & external traits
- Come up with a problem that your character can solve.

### Planning:

- Use a story mountain or a timeline to consider: Who? Wants What? But! So...So What? (Make sure you've considered the life lesson or the theme of your story.)
- Do some world building: Who lives in your world? What creatures inhabit it? Do some sketches and draw a map.

### Drafting:

- Don't forget to weave between action, dialogue, thoughts, and feelings
- Include description of the setting of your invented world.
- Play around with metaphors.

### Revising & Editing

- Revise: Did you describe the setting? Did you weave between action, dialogue, thoughts, and feelings? Does your story make sense?
- Edit: Did you include correct capitalization & punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly?

### Publishing:

- Share with a friend or family member!

## Poetry

Poems are powerful ideas in tiny packages.

### Choosing ideas:

- Make a list of topics that may be poem worthy. Consider...
  - Big feelings
  - Observations about the world
  - Social Issues
  - Memories
  - Hopes and wishes

### Planning

- Read lots and lots of poetry to notice what other poets do to share ideas.

### Drafting & Revising

- Revise as you draft each poem. Consider...
  - Line breaks, Rhythm, Precise Language, Surprising Metaphors, Playful Language

### Editing

- Poetry doesn't need the same kind of punctuation as story writing, but you should choose it carefully. Use punctuation to match the meaning and rhythm of your poems.

### Publishing

- Create an anthology of your favorite poems.

## Song Writing

Song lyrics are like poetry, just put to music!

### Choosing ideas:

- Make a list of topics that may be poem worthy. Consider...
  - Big feelings
  - Observations about the world
  - Social Issues
  - Memories
  - Hopes and wishes
  - Relationships

### Planning

- Read the lyrics to your favorite songs to notice what the songwriters do to make the lyrics great.

### Drafting & Revising

- Revise as you draft each poem. Consider...
  - Rhyme,
  - Rhythm,
  - Repeating Lines

### Publishing

- Put your lyrics to music and perform for a friend or a family member.
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## Script Writing

Write a script for a play, a tv show, or even a newscast.

### Choosing ideas:

- Consider writing a script for the kinds of things you like to watch. *If you like cartoons, write a script for a cartoon program, if you like drama, consider a sad play.*

### Planning

- Choose a planning method that is appropriate for the kind of script you are writing. You might want to use planning boxes, timelines, numbered lists, or story mountains.

### Drafting

- Write down what the characters say using colons (*Character:*)
- Write narration to describe what the actors will be doing.

### Revising

- Make sure your script makes sense. Try to make sure that different characters have different ways of talking.

### Publishing

- Consider asking friends and family to read your script out loud.

<p><b>Review Writing</b> The internet is full of reviews of all kinds: book reviews, movie reviews, restaurant reviews, video games, and more! This helps others decide if they will enjoy something.</p>	<p><b>Choosing ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider something that you absolutely love (or dislike) and you want the world to know.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize your ideas listing reasons and evidence why something is good or not-so-good.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember to include a persuasive introduction and conclusion.</li> <li>Add lots of details, including precise language and little stories to help support your opinion.</li> <li>Use everything you know about strong, persuasive writing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revising &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise: Did you elaborate on your thinking by including lots of evidence to support your opinion?</li> <li>Revise: Did you use persuasive language?</li> <li>Edit: Did you use paragraphs? Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly? Do your auto-corrections make sense?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing</b> Ask your parents if you can post your reviews on the internet.</p>
<p><b>Op Eds</b> Op Eds are published in magazines and newspapers and written to voice a strong opinion about community or world issues.</p>	<p><b>Choosing ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider an issue you feel strongly about. <i>Example: the environment, school rules, gender equality</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize your ideas listing reasons and evidence to support your opinion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drafting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember to include a persuasive introduction and conclusion.</li> <li>Include lots of details, including precise language and little stories to help support your opinion.</li> <li>Use everything you know about strong, persuasive writing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revise &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise: Did you elaborate on your thinking by including lots of evidence to support your opinion?</li> <li>Revise: Did you use persuasive language?</li> <li>Edit: Did you use paragraphs? Did you include correct capitalization &amp; punctuation? Are all high frequency words spelled correctly? Do your auto-corrections make sense?</li> </ul> <p><b>Publishing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your parents for help in sharing your op-ed with an appropriate audience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Picture Book</b></p>	<p>Choose a piece of writing that you've already done. It could be a story or a piece of informational writing. Read and study the illustrations in picture book mentor texts. Jot down a list of what the illustrator did to make the reader think and feel something. Create a book, using all you learned from other illustrators to match your pictures to the words. Share with a friend or family member.</p>

# Summer Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19
June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26
June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3
July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10
July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17
July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24
July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31
Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7



# High Frequency Words (WORD WALL WORDS)

(These words should be spelled correctly in all writing)

Adapted from [A Fresh Look at Phonics](#) by Wiley Blevins

about	after	again	also	always	another	around	buy	because	been
before	carry	different	does	each	come	could	every	found	here
hear	how	these	those	though	through	to	too	two	there
their	they're	laugh	light	little	myself	knew	new	know	once
other	own	people	right	things	together	very	which	when	went
what	whose	who's	would	while	were	where	your	you're	unless

## Sample Summer Calendar

This is an example of what a student's summer calendar could look like:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>June 15</b> Journaling	<b>June 16</b> Journaling	<b>June 17</b> Day off	<b>June 18</b> Fantasy – Choose an idea	<b>June 19</b> Fantasy – Planning
<b>June 22</b> Fantasy – Planning	<b>June 23</b> Fantasy – Planning	<b>June 24</b> Fantasy – Drafting	<b>June 25</b> Day off	<b>June 26</b> Fantasy – Drafting
<b>June 29</b> Fantasy – Drafting	<b>June 30</b> Fantasy – Drafting	<b>July 1</b> Day off	<b>July 2</b> Fantasy – Drafting	<b>July 3</b> Day off
<b>July 6</b> Fantasy – Drafting	<b>July 7</b> Fantasy – Revising	<b>July 8</b> Fantasy – Revising	<b>July 9</b> Day off	<b>July 10</b> Fantasy – Editing
<b>July 13</b> Fantasy – Publish	<b>July 14</b> Day off	<b>July 15</b> Family Vacation - Journaling	<b>July 16</b> Family Vacation - Journaling	<b>July 17</b> Family Vacation – Day Off
<b>July 20</b> Email Friends	<b>July 21</b> Email Family	<b>July 22</b> Poetry	<b>July 23</b> Poetry	<b>July 24</b> Poetry
<b>July 27</b> Day off	<b>July 28</b> Poetry	<b>July 29</b> Day off	<b>July 30</b> Poetry - Publishing	<b>July 31</b> Write a book review & post on Good Reads
<b>Aug 3</b> Gratitude Journal	<b>Aug 4</b> Gratitude Journal	<b>Aug 5</b> Gratitude Journal	<b>Aug 6</b> Write a movie review	<b>Aug 7</b> Day off