

Online Writing Resources for Students

Useful Online Resources Available at No Cost

*This resource list was prepared by the
Polk Bros. Foundation Center for Urban Education for the
Chicago Public Schools Office of Local School Council and Community Relations.*

Poetry 4 Kids

The largest collection of poetry for kids on the internet.

<http://www.poetry4kids.com/>

Story Starters (Grades K-6)

A creative writing activity to try every day. You pick the format.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/storystarters/storystarter1.htm>

Writing Activities (Grades K-12)

This site, from Discovery Education, provides writing, mechanics, and grammar resources by grade level

http://school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp/english/english_homework_help.html

Creating Comics and Cartoons (Grades 3-5)

Using published comics and cartoons as examples, children can create their own while playing with images and language.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/creating-comics-cartoons-30291.html>

Explore and Write about Nature (Grades 3-5)

In this activity, children look closely at living things in their natural environments and then make books about what they see.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/explore-write-about-nature-30175.html>

Fairy Tales and You (Grades 3-5)

Children will draw on their knowledge of story structure and fairy tales to write their own.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/fairy-tales-30284.html>

Read All about It: Neighborhood News (Grades 3-5)

Children enjoy sharing their thoughts, ideas and opinions in talking with others. Encourage them to write these down and more to share in a neighborhood newspaper!

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/read-about-neighborhood-news-30293.html>

Telling My Story: Make a Bio-Cube (Grades 3-5)

Let children explore an interesting subject—themselves. An online tool will teach them to summarize and organize information as they write.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/telling-story-make-cube-30174.html>

Write “Moving” Sports Poetry (Grades 3-5)

We've all heard the expression “poetry in motion”—this activity gets children writing poems about grace and movement using photos of athletes.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-moving-sports-poetry-30170.html>

Write Shape Poems (Grades 3-5)

Use shape poems, or poems that look like the things they describe, as a fun way to introduce children to poetry.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-shape-poems-30173.html>

Write a Recipe (Grades 3-5)

Use recipes to help children practice reading and writing step-by-step instructions. Have them sample the results to see how they did.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-recipe-30172.html>

Biography Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips, strategies, and challenges for writing biographies.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/biograph/index.htm>

Descriptive Writing (Grades 3-12)

A writing workshop with tips and guidelines that will help you use your powers of observation to write and publish descriptive writing.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/diary/descriptive_description.htm

Folktale Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips, challenges, and guidelines to help write your own folktale.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/folktalewshop_index.htm

Mystery Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips, strategies and challenges for writing mysteries.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mystery/index.htm>

Myth Writing (Grades 3-12)

A writing workshop that teaches you how to write a myth and also has you write one of your own.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythswshop_index.htm

News Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips and strategies for writing news.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/news/index.htm>

Poetry Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips and strategies for writing poetry

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/index.htm>

Speech Writing (Grades 3-12)

Tips and strategies for writing a speech.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/speech/index.htm>

Writing a Book Review (Grades 3-12)

Writing tips, strategies, and challenges for writing book reviews.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev>

Explore Point of View in Fairy Tales (Grades 5-8)

Explore fairy tales told in both old and new ways and use an online tool to help children create their own “fractured” version of a fairy tale.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/explore-point-view-fairy-30148.html>

Write a Gem of a Poem (Grades 5-8)

Learn about diamante poems, and then consider the idea of cause and effect before working it into the diamante poem format.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-poem-30153.html>

Explore Summers Past and Present (Grades 5-10)

Have fun sharing favorite summer memories. In this activity, children think about their own memories and answer questions before asking the same questions of someone older.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/explore-summers-past-present-30151.html>

Make a Magnetic Poetry Set (Grades 5-10)

Let children practice using different types of words in a fill-in-the-blank-story game before making their own word list for a magnetic poetry set.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/make-magnetic-poetry-30150.html>

Celebrate Heroes (Grades 6-8)

Encourage children to spend a little time thinking and writing about just what makes a hero and who their personal heroes might be.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/celebrate-heroes-30154.html>

Comics and Graphic Novels (Grades 6-8)

Instead of creating traditional book reports or writing summaries, get “graphic” by creating a comic book or cartoon adaptation of the major scenes from the books.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/comics-graphic-novels-30296.html>

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/diary/descriptive_description.htm

Design a Travel Brochure (Grades 6-8)

Invite children and teens to create a travel brochure to share information about a special place with others.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/design-travel-brochure-30297.html>

That Sounds Fun! Sound Words and Sports Poetry (Grades 6-8)

In this activity, children and teens use their experiences playing or watching sporting events (or other types of outdoor games) to write poems that are full of the sounds of the games.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/that-sounds-sound-words-30295.html>

A Trip to the Museum: From Picture to Story (Grades 6-8)

Visit a museum or art gallery (either online or in person) with children and teens, helping them find inspiration for a story based on a piece of art that they particularly enjoy or relate to.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/trip-museum-from-picture-30302.html>

Write Letters to Friends and Family (Grades 6-8)

Invite young adults to write letters to classmates, postcards from travels, and e-mails to family and friends.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-letters-friends-family-30300.html>

Create a Career Blog (Grades 7-12)

This activity invites children and teens to explore various careers and then write about what they might want to be when they grow up in a blog.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/create-career-blog-30152.html>

MyTube: Make a Video Public Service Announcement (Grades 7-12)

Invite teens to explore issues that are important to them, and then write a script and film a video public service announcement.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/mytube-make-video-public-30157.html>