Independent Reading/Writing Activities

Connect reading and writing with active projects that students can do individually or with a learning partner.

Read a story. Draw pictures of the people in the story. Turn them into puppets and act out a part of the story.	Illustrate a paragraph or a page. Use drawings to show what the text means.	Create challenging multiple choice questions about topic. Then exchange the questions.	What will people in the next century want to know about Chicago today? Make a time-capsule of things they should know about us today.	Play Knowledge bingo. Put facts on different squares of a bingo card. Then put the same facts on small pieces of paper. Mix them up and play bingo. Then write what you learned from the game.	Write a story as a team. Each student writes one sentence, then gives the story to the next student to continue
Make a diagram showing how two things are alike and different. This kind of diagram is called a Venn.	Make a sports writing game. Write verbs, nouns, and adjectives on pieces of paper. Then use your words to write sports stories.	Invent a better way to do something. Draw a picture of your invention. Explain how and why people will use it.	Make a Chicago sports map. Tell where a team is playing. Make a key to show what's important about each place. Then write a news report about where the team is and how they are doing.	Read about a topic. Then list your "top ten" important facts about that topic.	Write and draw about yourself ten years from today. Make a time-line of how you get there.
Make a weather graph. Then write a weather report for Chicago birds.	Make a crossword puzzle about a topic you like.	Make a time-line showing what happens in a story. Use words or draw pictures.	Write a description of a place. Give your description to another student. Ask that student to draw the picture of that place.	Make a Chicago alphabet book.	Choose the five most important words on a page. Write clues to help someone else find them on that page--your clues should be challenging.