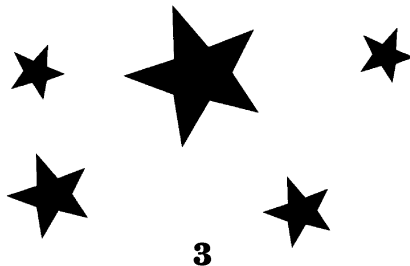




Contents

A Writer's Tools	4-5
G etting Ideas for Writing	6
W riting a Rough Draft	7
R efining Your Writing	8
S haring your Writing with Others.....	9
E xploring Realistic Fiction.....	10
A n Example of Realistic Fiction.....	11-13
G etting Ideas for Writing Realistic Fiction.....	14
S tory Frame.....	15
E xploring Poetry	16
S ome Examples of Poetry	17-19
G etting Ideas for Your Poems	20-21
E xploring Fables and Animal Stories	22-25
G etting Ideas for Your Fables and Animal Stories	26
W riting Animal Stories	27
E xploring Tall Tales	28-31
G etting Ideas for Your Modern Tall Tale	32



A Writer's Tools

YOU NEED:

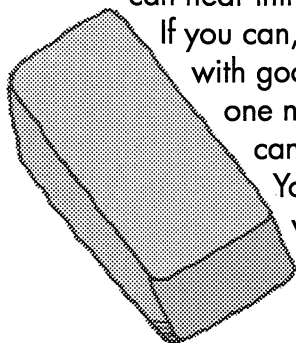
★ A notebook ★ Something to write with ★ A quiet place ★ A current library card

Have you ever stopped to think about all the steps involved in building a house? First, an architect must sketch a blueprint, or plan, that shows what the house will look like. Once the blueprint is finished, carpenters begin to build the house. To do so, they use materials such as bricks and boards and metal. They also use special tools such as hammers, nails, saws, and drills.

In many ways, creating a piece of writing is like building a house. Instead of sketching a blueprint, however, a writer sketches an outline or a story plan. Instead of bricks and boards, the writer might use materials such as a pencil and paper or a computer.

And what about a writer's tools—the things he or she uses to craft a poem or a short story or an essay? Perhaps the most important tools a writer needs are a good imagination and the ability to dream. Through imagination, a writer is often able to look at a seemingly ordinary thing or event and turn it into something extraordinary. He or she is able to look at a situation and dream awhile and say, "Now what if this were to happen? How would it change things or make them more interesting?" Besides a good imagination and the ability to dream, a writer needs a quiet place to work. It can be quite difficult to concentrate when you can hear things going on nearby.

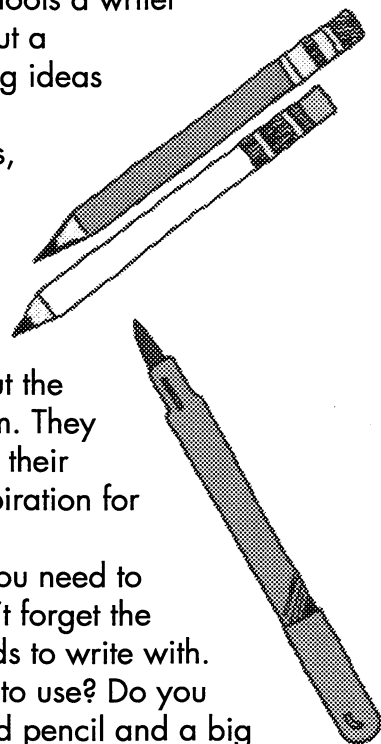
If you can, find a quiet place with good lighting—maybe one near a window, so you can look out and dream. You also might try writing at your local or school library.



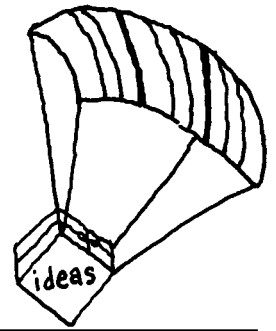
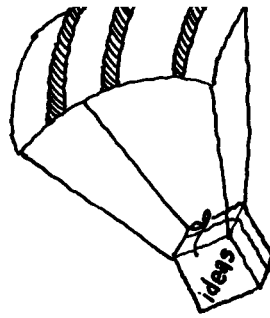
Are there other tools a writer needs? How about a notebook of writing ideas and unusual or interesting pictures, facts, and words? Many writers also keep a journal of their ideas and dreams and observations about the world around them. They use the writings in their journal as the inspiration for their story ideas.

What else do you need to start writing? Don't forget the tools a writer needs to write with. What do you like to use? Do you prefer a stubby old pencil and a big pink eraser or a smooth ballpoint or a felt-tipped pen? Would you rather work on a typewriter or a computer?

Last on a writer's list of tools—but certainly not the least—are a current library card and a set of reference materials nearby. The following materials will be helpful as you use this workbook. These books and magazines should be available at your local or school library. Or you can buy them at the bookshop.



Getting Ideas for Writing



YOU NEED:

- ★ Your writing journal or notebook
- ★ Something to write with
- ★ An interesting place to sit and take notes

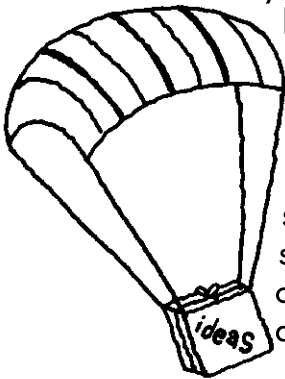
Where do writing ideas come from? Sometimes they come from a single name or word or phrase that rolls around in a writer's head until it becomes a story. Other times, they come out of an attempt to explain how or why something happened. Still other times, they are based on people or things that are part real and part made-up.

Good writers are always on the lookout for story ideas. They use all of their senses to observe what is around them. Sometimes they jot down their observations in their notebook or journal. Then, when they're trying to come up with a writing idea, they pull out their notebooks for inspiration.

Warming Up

Here's a good way to get some ideas going: Take your writing journal or a notebook and find a place to sit where you can watch people. You might choose a park bench, a shopping centre, a library, a bus you can ride on, or your school canteen or playground. Zero in on one thing for a while and observe it carefully. Then start writing down your observations.

If you are in the school canteen, for example, what do you see and hear? Where is everyone sitting? Besides eating, what are people doing? What are they saying? If anyone is laughing, what does it sound like? Can you hear any sounds coming from the kitchen? Write down some of the things you see and hear. Next, observe what people are eating. Is anyone



eating anything unusual? Delicious? Unappealing? What do some of the foods feel, look, taste, and smell like?

Whatever setting you choose, try to observe things as closely as possible and to be as detailed as you can in your descriptions. Then go back and review your notes. Do you have enough for a story idea? If you're planning to write fiction, remember that you can always make up or exaggerate parts of the story as you go along. Use your imagination, and ask yourself, "What if? . . ."

The ideas and observations you jotted down are a great start for your journal. So don't stop now! Try to take a few minutes each day to write in your journal about the things you see, taste, hear, and smell. Write about your family, your friends, and your pets. Keeping a journal will sharpen your powers of observation . . . and help make you a better writer!

Writing a Rough Draft

YOU NEED:

★Your story ideas ★ Plenty of writing paper (or a computer) ★ Something to write with

Very few writers ever sit down and write a perfect piece from beginning to end. They usually write rough drafts first, on which they scribble, cross out, add things, and move things around. Sometimes they even crumple up their paper (or delete the document from their computer) and start all over again!

Before writing a rough draft, sort through your notebook of ideas to see where they take you. Then you can decide on the following:

Subject or Topic

Who or what do you want to write about? Will your subject or topic be serious or funny? What will you say about your subject or topic, and how will you say it?

Purpose

Authors write to entertain, to persuade, or to inform their readers. Sometimes they write for more than one purpose, such as to inform and to entertain. What about you? What will your purpose or purposes for writing be?

Audience

Who will be reading or hearing your writing? Do you have a specific audience in mind, such as your family or your classmates, or is your audience larger and more general than that? Or are you writing for no one but yourself?

Structure

What structure, or form, will your writing take? Will it be a short story? A poem? An essay? A play?

Once you've made these decisions about your writing, you can start your rough draft. In the beginning, don't worry too much about spelling, punctuation, and grammar. There will be time to work out the details later. Just get your ideas flowing and start writing!

