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# Introduction

This is a book that encourages children to write just for the fun of it. In the process, it is our hope that they will become more skilful writers, and will approach writing with less dread and more confidence.

'Just Write!' consists of 50 reproducible activity pages that focus on familiar subjects. You'll find topics such as 'The My Page', 'The Spill Page', 'The Backwards Page', 'The Worry Page' and 'The Air Page'. Since every page has a different theme, the writing projects are varied and unexpected. The fact that students can be counted on to know at least something about the individual topics provides the 'hook' for getting them to communicate their ideas. Ask them about their thumbs ('The Hand Page'), or the biggest crowd they've ever been in ('The Crowded Page') or the workings of a drawer ('The Furniture Page') and you're bound to get some interesting results because they know a little about all of these things.

You will notice that each writing page is accompanied by a teacher page, which provides additional comments about the activities as well as possible responses. In many cases, there are really no right or wrong answers. Be prepared to accept anything a child can justify.

Also on the teacher page, we have included an extending activity to go along with each theme page. In every case, the extender focuses on a simple art challenge that relates to the general theme of the activity. Not only should these extenders help keep 'early finishers' busy, they will also serve as fun-to-do rewards once the writing work is completed. If you choose to use the art ideas, you'll find they are very easy to administer. Most require only pencil and paper.

Of course, it is important to remind youngsters that you want them to treat these assignments with respect and that you expect them to put forth their best efforts. As you know, any activity can be raced through and, therefore, rendered meaningless. It should also be stressed that every part of the assignment must be completed.

Occasionally, some students may need more space than we have allotted for the various challenges. If that is so, simply tell them to finish their writing on the back of their activity sheets.

We hope you enjoy these activities and that 'Just Write!' will be just right for your students.

Greta and Ted Rasmussen

# The Middle Page

## Possible Responses:

1. I have a nose on my face.  
We don't get mail today because it is Sunday.  
If you'll go with me, I'll do it.  
The alarm sounded so loud I woke up.  
Things that go up always come down.
2. Each daisy has a brown spot in the middle.  
The path goes through the middle of the bush.
3. I was talking on the telephone when I heard a knock at the door. I hope that I can take the test early.
4. The circle is in the centre of a square, and both are in a bigger square.

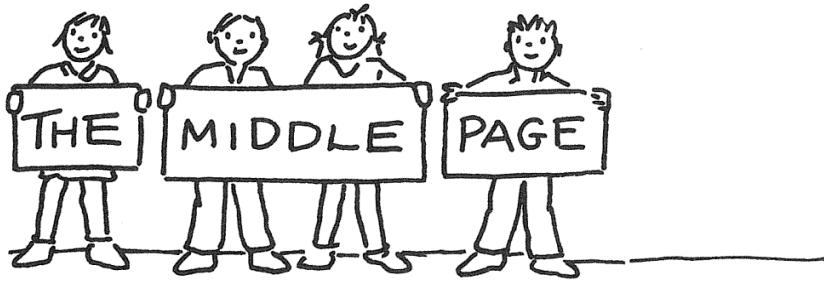
## Comment:

Don't let students get by with lazy approaches to Number 1. Emphasise that responses such as 'My nose runs' or 'I go crazy' aren't good enough.

## Extender:

Tell youngsters to draw a landscape, but here's the catch: The most interesting part of the picture should be located in the middle of their drawings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



1. Build sentences around these 'middle' words

\_\_\_\_\_ nose \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ today \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ go \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ sounded \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ up \_\_\_\_\_

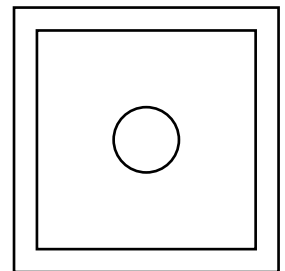
2. Write two sentences about nature that include the word 'middle'.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Someone cut these sentences in the middle. Finish the word and then finish each sentence any way you like.



4. Write a sentence describing this picture but don't use the word 'middle'.



I was talking on the tel \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
I hope that I c \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_



1. Who are you? Give three different answers to this question? Use complete sentences.

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2. Answer this:  
'What is mud?'



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3. Answer this:  
'What is a stick?'



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4. Here is the question: 'Can I go with you the shopping centre?'

Give the shortest answer you can. \_\_\_\_\_

Give a very polite answer that says 'no'. \_\_\_\_\_

Give an answer that doesn't sound friendly. \_\_\_\_\_

Give an answer that doesn't stay on the subject. \_\_\_\_\_