

Summer Reading Activities



	Fourth Grade – Activity #8
Title	Journal Writing
Parent Information	<p>Having a place to write our thoughts or ideas, observations, questions, and/or feelings is a way to build writing skills and to discover a joy for writing. Keeping a journal also helps children process information or feelings and communicate through writing. Journal writing is a place for students to write freely while building fluency, stamina, and confidence with writing.</p> <p>Journals can be used in a variety of ways such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming ideas for stories or writing topics • Creative writing • Writing poems, song lyrics or letters • Keeping lists or notes • Reflection • Goal setting <p>These are just a few ideas and there are many more!</p>
Objective	Build writing fluency and stamina
Time	10 – 15 minutes daily
Materials	Pencil and paper, or composition notebook, or spiral journal
Procedures	<p>To support and encourage your child with journal writing, set aside a daily time for journal writing. Date each journal entry.</p> <p>Allow your child to choose the focus for the writing time or support them with suggesting an activity from below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write about a recent family experience or event to record their memories and feelings. • Write a plan or list for an upcoming experience or event to keep organized. • Brainstorm and write a list of ideas they want to accomplish over the summer – revisit the list to check off items or to use for additional writing ideas. • Provide a writing prompt or sentence starter (ex. I wish I could _____ because...). • Provide an interesting quote and have your child reflect and write about what it means or how it inspires them (ex. <i>“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” ~ Nelson Mandela</i>). • Continue a story or creative writing piece from a previous day.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write about an observation, a noticing, and/or a wondering (ex. At the beach today you were watching the waves, write what you noticed or wondered.).• Power Write – set a timer (1-3 minutes) and have your child write as much as they can as well as they can about a topic, image, word, or phrase.• Draft a letter or email to a friend or family member. Use the draft to write or type a final copy to send.• Write a review of a book, TV show, movie, or video game. Include whether they would recommend it to others and why.• Write the directions for how to do or make something they have learned (ex. How to Make Chocolate Chip Cookies or How to Pump Up a Tire).
Additional Resources and Information	<p>Visit Scholastic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Journaling Benefits Your Child• The Guide to 4th Grade: Reading and Writing <p>Visit Reading Rockets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers <p>Visit Thought Co.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaging Writing Prompts for 4th Grade