

Summer Reading Activities



	Fifth Grade – Activity #8
Title	Journal Writing
Parent Information	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. Journals can be used in a variety of ways such as: • Brainstorming ideas for stories or writing topics • Creative writing • Writing poems, song lyrics or letters • Keeping lists or notes • Reflection • Goal setting These are just a few ideas and there are many more!
Objective	Build writing fluency and stamina
Time	10 – 15 minutes daily
Materials	Pencil and paper, or composition notebook, or spiral journal
Procedures	To support and encourage your child with journal writing, set aside a daily time for journal writing. Date each journal entry. Allow your child to choose the focus for the writing time or support them with suggesting an activity from below. • 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.”</i> ~ Nelson Mandela). • Continue a story or creative writing piece from a previous day.

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	• 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	Visit Scholastic: • How Journaling Benefits Your Child • The Guide to 5th Grade: Reading and Writing Visit Reading Rockets: • Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers Visit Thought Co. • Engaging Writing Prompts for 5th Grade