

## Ideas for Creative Writing in the Classroom

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1. Before children begin writing, encourage story telling. Perhaps start a story and let the child add details. Ask questions like: "What do you think they did next? Where could they go?"
2. Make an alphabet booklet. It could be simple or outlandish. One example is: "A is for the alligator that ate an apple." A silly one could be: "An antelope named Amy always adores Alexander, her aging alligator from Africa." Illustrations would be great to add to the project.
3. Imagination is a marvelous way to lose oneself. Ask children to pretend to be a clown, teacher, fireman, bird, butterfly, etc. You could ask questions like: "How did you help someone? What is interesting or good about being this person or thing?" Start like this: "I am a bird. One day ...."
4. When a child is restless, upset, or just tired, he or she can unwind with a good story. Read to them or let them read. They can write or tell a story. Give topics such as: "If I were a .... What I am thankful for and why.... I wish.... One day, I want to .... If I could, I would change ...."
5. Encourage rewards for excellence. This could be a good grade, time for oral reading, posting the corrected story or poem. Publish it in a grade-level newspaper or in a newsletter to parents. Two or three times a year, collect stories or poems to display at PTA meetings or other events.
6. Writing in a journal is a excellent way for all children to express their feelings especially if they aren't being graded. This can be a good method of expression for shy or unruly children.
7. Expand language skills by asking students to write more about a story. These are suggestions. What did you like or dislike about the story? Make up a different ending. Make up a story using the same theme as read but use different characters. Tell the story but put yourself in it.
8. Write a story or poem from a word list to get them started such as prince, Pegasus, dark forest. Words such as "snow, blow, spice, ice, crunch, bunch" can prompt ideas for a winter poem.
9. "How to..." stories help students organize ideas for writing. Some topics are: how to make a birdhouse, plant seeds, make a peanut butter sandwich, how to brush your teeth, etc.
10. A nice touch to a story or poem is a drawing to go along with the idea. An interesting way to use art is to present a picture and tell the student to write a story, poem, or paragraph about what they see in the picture. Encourage dialogue and the illustrator's message.
11. Music can enhance writing. Some students enjoy making up songs to go with their stories or poems. This could be a group project. They could use familiar tunes but have their own words. They might like to sing it to the class. A enjoyable assignment could be to let the students listen to different types of music and write what they are thinking about.