

Table of Contents

Journal-ism (journal writing)	2
Time capsule (list writing)	3
It was a One-eyed, One-horned, Flying (science fiction writing)	4
More Than One Kind of Poetry (writing alphabet and acrostic poetry)	5
Concrete Poetry	6
Nature Again (free and rhymed verse)	7
Haiku I.Q.	8
Make Your Writing More Interesting (creative writing)	9
What’s Cooking? (writing directions)	12
Making Characters Believable	13
Characterization – Another Dimension (writing dialogue)	15
Combined Characterization and Conversation (writing dialogue)	17
Who Are You? (writing first person narrative)	14
Mini-story Beginnings (writing story endings)	19
All’s Well that Ends Well (story writing)	20
Fabulous Fables	21
How do You Figure It? (writing figures of speech)	22
Life of a Star (science fiction/narrative)	23
Earth Goes Splitsville (science fiction/problem solving)	24
Tub Troubles (narrative, problem solving)	25
Gold Mine Camp (description/mystery)	26
Loose Change (narrative/problem solving)	28

Name _____

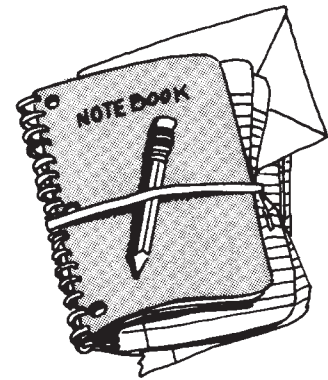
Journal-ism

All good writers know the importance of keeping a journal. It is their life-preserver, their piggy bank. They realize how hard it is to come up with fresh, new ideas. Therefore, they use their journals to store little bits and pieces of information. Later these ideas can be taken and turned into sparkling gems of wit and wisdom.

What is a journal? Is it a small, brown, leather-bound book, with gold-edged pages? Is it a yellow, legal-sized tablet? Some writers store scribbles on colorful stationery, brown paper bags, or the backs of receipts and then stuff all these into a desk drawer. Others have volumes of neatly organized and numbered ideas stored away on bookshelves or in file cabinets. Still other writers use their computers. A journal is whatever you make it, as long as you can get to it—and the thoughts inside—quickly and easily.

Take time now to set up a journal. Will it be a loose-leaf binder, a pocket folder, a file box, an accordion file, or something else? Keep a pen or pencil stored with your journal so when the ideas start flowing, you are ready to start recording.

Personalize your journal. Give it a title. This name will be your first creative act, so choose something special—one that is clever, amusing, or thought-provoking. How about “Tony’s Tidbits,” “Sam’s Scribbles,” or “Write On!” In addition, make your journal fun to look at—decorate it. You could sketch a cartoon on the cover, glue photos on it, or cut words out of newspapers or magazines to form clever quotes.



Now that you have designed your journal, what should you put in it? Make this the place where you keep all your writings. When it is up to you to choose a topic for your journal entry, focus on whatever interests you. Do you have a favorite hobby or pastime? Do you like to collect baseball cards or dance? Do you have a frightening story to tell about the first night you stayed home alone and heard unexplainable noises in the basement? Do you have an embarrassing moment to share like the time you dropped your tray in the cafeteria? These types of entries are great. In most cases what interests you will also interest others and, therefore, will make a good story, poem, or song.

1. Write three possible titles for your journal. Underline the title you think best for your journal.

2. List some topics you want to include in your journal.

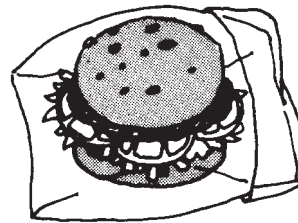
Name _____

Time Capsule

Which fifteen items do you think would allow people 300 years in the future to determine what life was like in your time? What will you include? In California, a time capsule contained a newspaper and financial reports, as well as a full-length Walt Disney motion picture on a video tape, and a baseball used by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

A writer must be aware of people and events. What is important? What fifteen things will you include in your time capsule? Below is a partial list of items suggested by a group of boys and girls in Missouri. Read it and then write your list, giving reasons for your choices.

- a Big Mac sealed in a baggie
- a computer disk
- a bottle of polluted ocean water
- a cheerleading outfit
- a chain made of pop tops
- a microwave oven
- a newspaper article about a successful manned spaceflight
- an advertisement listing a house for sale with its features and price
- a cash register receipt for a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk
- a video of a popular rock group
- a calculator
- an instant replay from a Super Bowl
- a can of caffeine-free Diet Coke
- an artificial Christmas tree
- a package of press-on nails



My List for a Time Capsule

Item

Reason

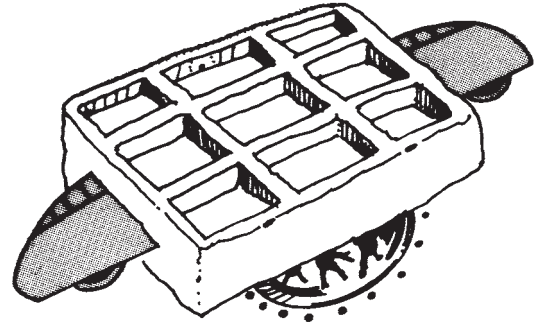
Item	Reason
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name _____

It Was a One-Eyed, One-Horned, Flying . . .

Below is an unfinished story about an Unidentified Flying Object—a U.F.O. The only limits on this narration are your imagination and inventiveness. Whether your tale ends up being a humorous parody, or a serious science fiction tale depends entirely on you and the words you choose to fill in the blanks.

As you complete this activity, you will be experimenting with how words interact with one another. You will discover that the words you choose at the beginning will certainly determine those that you use later. For example, if you decide to do a parody—a humorous imitation of a science fiction story—then your U.F.O. may be a flying waffle. Therefore, the rest of your words and ideas must maintain the humor and fantasy. Fill in the blanks with words that create a harmonious tone and mood throughout the story.



Late yesterday afternoon I was _____ing down the _____, I turned into _____ and entered _____; Suddenly it grew very _____. All at once I heard _____. I looked up and there, coming straight at me, was _____. It landed with a _____. I was _____. Is it really a _____ I'm seeing?

I cautiously _____ closer. I very slowly reached out to touch the _____, but my _____ bounced off because _____ surrounded the _____. Then a _____ opened. A _____ was lowered to the ground. Before my very eyes, out came a _____ with a _____ like a _____. In its _____ it carried a machine that looked like a _____. It quickly took my _____. Then the _____ was taken up again. There was a _____ and the U.F.O. _____. Quickly it changed course and hovered over _____. Suddenly, it was gone. On the ground where it had been was a _____. I _____ home and told my parents about the _____. They said, "Oh, _____, you've been _____ too much." Still shaking and angered by their refusal to believe me, I decided to report the _____ to the _____ before it was too late.