

# Write Something — EVERY DAY —

366 Pencil Sharpeners for Students of Writing



A DIYHomeschooler Handy-Mom Tool

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## Introduction

**O**ne of the pieces of advice that all writers receive is to write something every day. If you are a tutor, a teacher, or a home educator using natural methods to teach grammar, mechanics, and spelling, having your students write something every day is essential. (You can learn more about teaching language arts the natural way at our website. See <https://diyhomeschooler.com/language-arts-the-natural-way/>.)

The task then becomes: What to write?

The ideas provided in this book will give you an answer for each and every day in a year. But best of all, the writing assignments will help you devise your own future exercises by following a similar pattern.

### **How to Use This Book**

For each month, you will find a writing assignment corresponding to each day in the month. Generally speaking, however, you do not have to use these writing assignments on that specific day. (If you have a

writer who could use more practice, or simply want to proceed by building skills on skills, you'll find an alternate plan in **"Appendix I: Forms of Writing."**)

The book begins in the month of January. However, you can begin on any day.

Assignments marked with an \* indicate that they build on the previous day's exercise. This doesn't necessarily preclude an activity from being used if you haven't already completed the first activity, but it is a consideration.

At times you'll see a description and then the prompt to write. These assignments are intentionally left open-ended, providing room for the writer to take the work in a direction that interests him.

At times we have included an Internet source that is necessary to complete the assignment. We all understand that the Internet changes very rapidly. In case the source we link to is no longer available, we have included alternative sources in **"Appendix II: Resources & Links."** Many of these resources link to content on the [DIYHomeschooler.com](http://DIYHomeschooler.com) website. They are intended to be helpful, but they are not necessary to use the book. A great alternative is to have your own reference resources available. These might include a dictionary, an encyclopedia set, and/or predetermined resources on the Internet where information about a topic can be found.

If for any reason you are unable to locate a specific resource or source of information, substitute one of your own. For example, "Stickeen" by John Muir, a free public domain download, is referenced on January 5. If you do not have an Internet connection (or an interest in

the book for one reason or another), simply substitute a story that you do have access to. You are always free (and encouraged) to use your own preferred resources along with whatever you may have on hand.

Many times the writer is asked to reference a work of art. The images in this book are in black and white. Color versions are available at [DIYHomeschooler.com/Handy-Mom-Tools/Write-Something-Every-Day/](http://DIYHomeschooler.com/Handy-Mom-Tools/Write-Something-Every-Day/).

## **How to Adapt This Book for Your Student**

This book is meant to be used by all ages (even the youngest as long as he is writing comfortably). Though written to the student, this is not a book you can just hand off to a younger child and expect him to work through independently. While that may be true for older students, younger students will need your input, guidance, mentoring, and assistance in modifying any lessons that do not fit their abilities. You may need to swap passages, narrow the assignment, or substitute another idea. As an example:

- Reading skills may not allow a student to understand a particular passage being used. If a passage is too difficult, you may need to read it out loud and provide an explanation.
- The writing assignment may be too long or broad. This is where you have an opportunity to tutor your student—beginning where he is and nurturing his writing growth.
- There is a wide variety of activities provided; some require very little from the student, others push him a bit. This is intentional. If for some reason you feel an activity is above (or

below) your student’s level and therefore inappropriate, feel free to substitute something that will be more effective.

- In some cases, your student will need your direct involvement. If a drive or a walk is recommended, you may need to provide the transportation. Advanced planning may also be required when the lesson involves a short book or longer passage to read. You’ll want to peek ahead!

We have provided suggestions to help you with these and other issues that may arise if you are using this book with younger students.

Not every writing activity will fit every family. If that is your case, you have several options:

- Substitute a different activity from the same month with one that you may not otherwise get to.
- Substitute subject matter that you feel more closely aligns with your student and family.
- Substitute a copywork assignment taken from something your student is currently reading.

If you are working within a 5-day week rather than a 7-day week, you’ll want to pick and choose writing assignments that interest you or your student.

This book covers several different types of writing. Instructions for covering each type of writing can be found in “**Appendix I: Forms of Writing.**”

Finally, you are encouraged to keep a notebook of samples of your student’s writing. You and your student will be encouraged to see his



writing progress as he develops the habit of writing something every day.

## September 1

### Descriptive Writing

A simile is a literary device that is used to compare one thing to another by connecting the two thoughts with *like* or *as*. For example, “The fire truck is as red as an apple.”

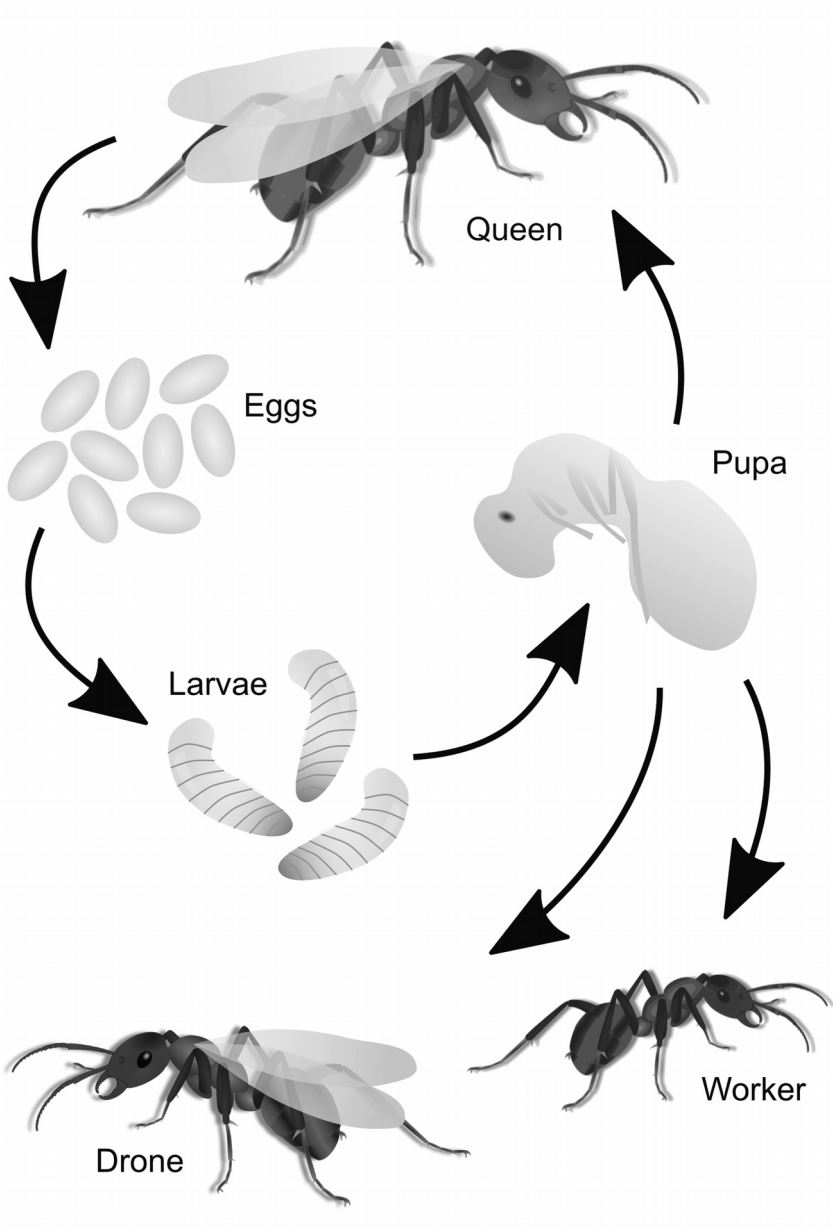
Grab an apple. Use your five senses to explore it: How does it feel? How does it smell? How does it sound? How does it look? How does it taste? Now write a description of the apple using all five senses and a series of similes.



## September 2

### Write an Encyclopedia Article

Examine this diagram of the life cycle of an ant:



Use the information in the diagram to write an article such as you would find in an encyclopedia accompanying the illustration.



## September 3 Tell a Story

View *The Country School*, a painting by Winslow Homer:



Color image available at [DIYHomeschooler.com/Handy-Mom-Tools/Write-Something-Every-Day/](http://DIYHomeschooler.com/Handy-Mom-Tools/Write-Something-Every-Day/).

What type of building is shown? How do you know? What type of floor does it have? What type of people are shown? What are they doing? What clues do you see that tell you? Look outside through the windows in the building. Where do you think it may be located?

## About the Author

DIYHomeschooler creates and curates quality resources for parents, tutors, and mentors seeking to instill a lifelong love of learning for generations to come. These time- and cost-effective tools from a seasoned homeschool veteran transcend the curriculum to provide a personalized education and empower every mom to become a Homeschool Handy-Mom. Find more do-it-yourself solutions for home education at [DIYHomeschooler.com](https://DIYHomeschooler.com).