

In Your Own Words

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING JOURNAL

#NotConsumedHomeschool

AN INDEPENDENT LEARNING CURRICULUM

CREATED BY Kim Sorgius

AND THE NOT CONSUMED TEAM

CONTRIBUTORS:

JESSICA SCHAAL

SAMANTHA BELL

CREATIVE DIRECTOR:

EMILY SHEEDER

ILLUSTRATORS:

RAMONA KURTEN

JOHN MOFFEIT II

EDITORS:

CRYSTAL MARCUM

ELIZABETH QUIZON

SOPHIA STOUFFER

AMY SPIERS

LEAH SORGIUS

ARDEN KOHOUT

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Table of Contents

Steps of the Writing Process	2
Introduction	4

POETRY

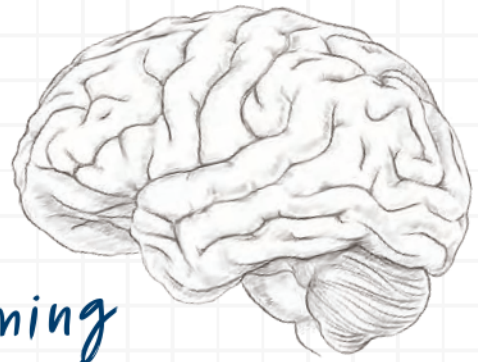
Haiku	9
Shape Poems and Acrostic Poems	14
Rhyme Schemes and Stanzas	20
Blank Verse and Free Verse	25
Narrative and Lyric Poetry.	30
Ballads	37
Sonnets	48
Imagist	54
Bonus Challenge: Villanelle	59
Poetry Review and Assessment	64

PROSE

Short Story	70
Journal	90
Letters	100
Instructions	111
Compare and Contrast Essay	117
Description of a Scene Essay	128
Personal Anecdote	133
Bonus Challenge: Podcast/Video Script, or Drama	143
Prose Review and Assessment	147

Glossary of Terms and Definitions	152
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Steps of the writing process → 1. Brainstorming



This is the first step in every writing process! The whole point is to get ideas flowing and write ALL of them down. You don't have to use all the ideas you write down, but you should have enough ideas that you know what to do in the researching step.

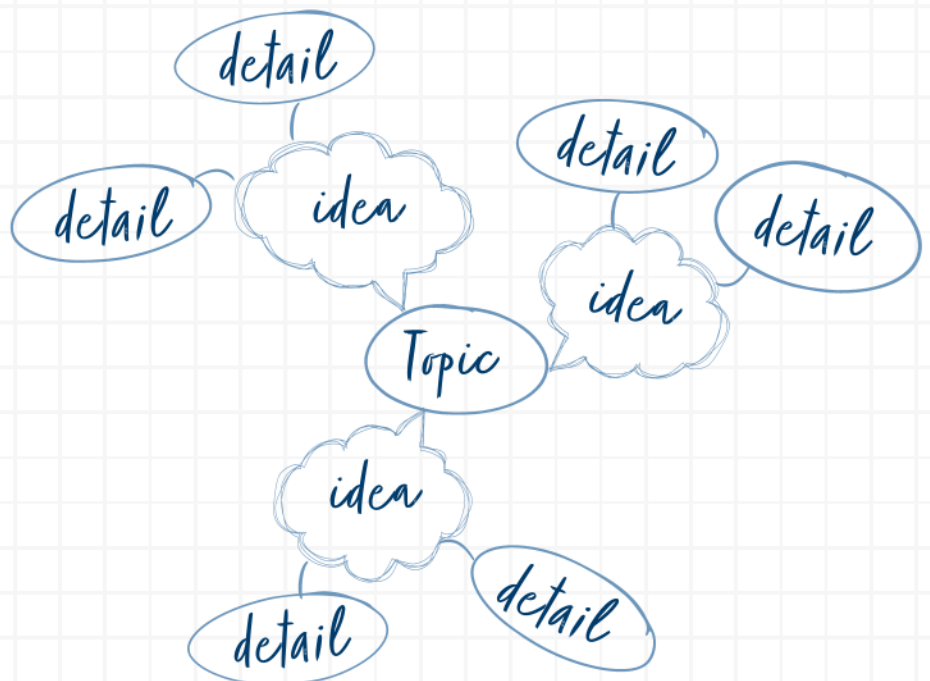


2. Researching

Some forms of writing will require very little research, like some poetry or prose that is written entirely from your own experience. Other forms of writing require a bit more research because you may not know all the information your literary endeavor requires you to know. For example, if you are writing a short story about an earlier time period of history, you may need to research details about daily life since they will be very different from your own daily life.

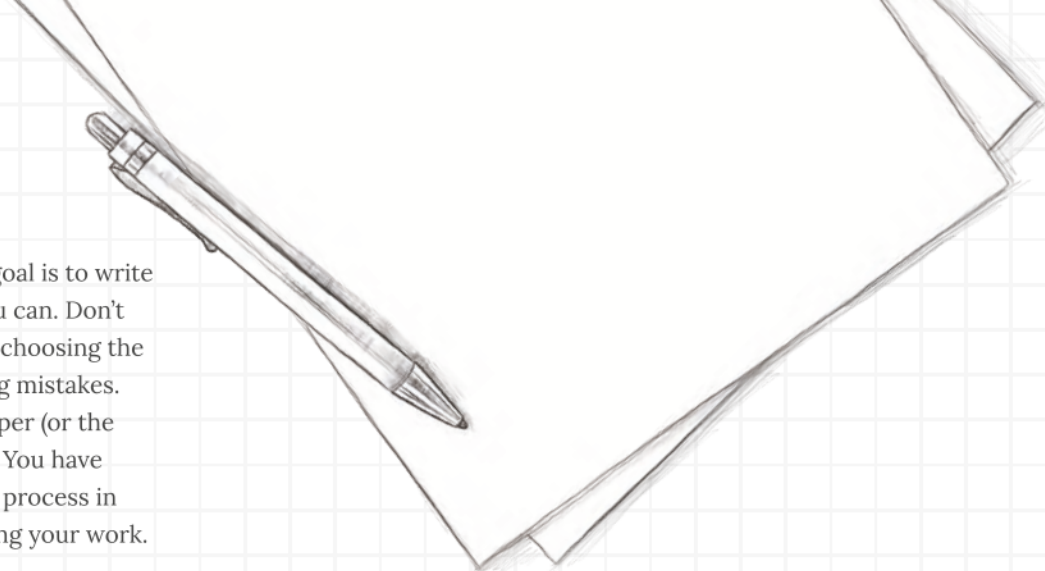
3. Planning

Planning is another step in getting ready to write. Again, some forms of writing may take more planning than others! A free verse poem will require less planning than a sonnet because a sonnet must have a certain number of lines and a particular rhyme scheme. A personal anecdote will take some planning, but it will not take as much as a short story since you have to map out how your short story will progress and create characters from your own imagination.



→ 4. Drafting

In the drafting stage, your main goal is to write as much as you can, as fast as you can. Don't worry about adding little details, choosing the best words, or looking for spelling mistakes. Just get your writing down on paper (or the computer) as quickly as possible! You have several more steps in the writing process in which you can attend to perfecting your work.

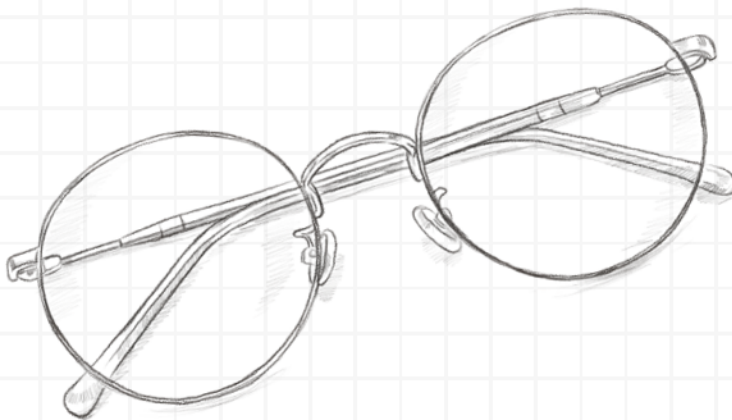


5. Revising

Revising is where you get to make your draft sparkle. You will examine whether you can add in more descriptive words, literary devices, and sound devices to make your work come alive. You will use the thesaurus in order to make sure you are using the best words possible instead of boring, overused words. You will analyze whether some sentences should be combined, separated, or deleted all together. Your main goal is to "level-up" your draft so that it is interesting and compelling for your audience.

6. Proofreading

the proofreading stage is absolutely essential to great ~~good~~ writing! This is where you check for correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting. Correctness, logic, and accuracy are your goals here, and they will help your writing shine rather than being dull and tarnished by careless mistakes and errors.



7. Finalizing

Once you have made all the revising and proofreading corrections to your draft, you need to create a final copy of your work to share with others! This copy should incorporate all the changes you have made up until this point and be the absolute best version of your work.

8. Publishing

This step is when you get to share your work! You may read it to a friend or family member, record yourself reading it, deliver it in front of a group, or send it to the person or organization it is intended for. Whether you choose to share it with people who are close to you, or enter it in a national competition, publishing your work allows you to get feedback and become a better writer!

Shape poem brainstorming

What color is your house?

How big is it?

Is your house loud or quiet?

How do you feel in your house?

What descriptive words pop into your head when you think of your house?

Acrostic poem brainstorming

What do leaves feel like?

What leaf colors do you like best?

Are there any sounds or smells you associate with leaves?

Where do you see leaves?

How would you describe leaves to someone who has never seen them?

Brainstorming and Practice

Today you get to practice both of the forms of poetry you learned about in the last lesson. If you want to, you can go back and review. When you're ready, practice on the examples below. Don't worry if you can't finish these poems or fill them out all the way—they're just for practice so you can think through this writing process!

-To brainstorm for your shape poem, answer the questions on the left.

Use the dot grid to draw a house outline and to write a shape poem about a house.

-To brainstorm your acrostic poem, answer the questions on the left.

Use the vertical word below to write an acrostic poem about leaves.

L _____

E _____

A _____

V _____

E _____

S _____

Drafting Part 1

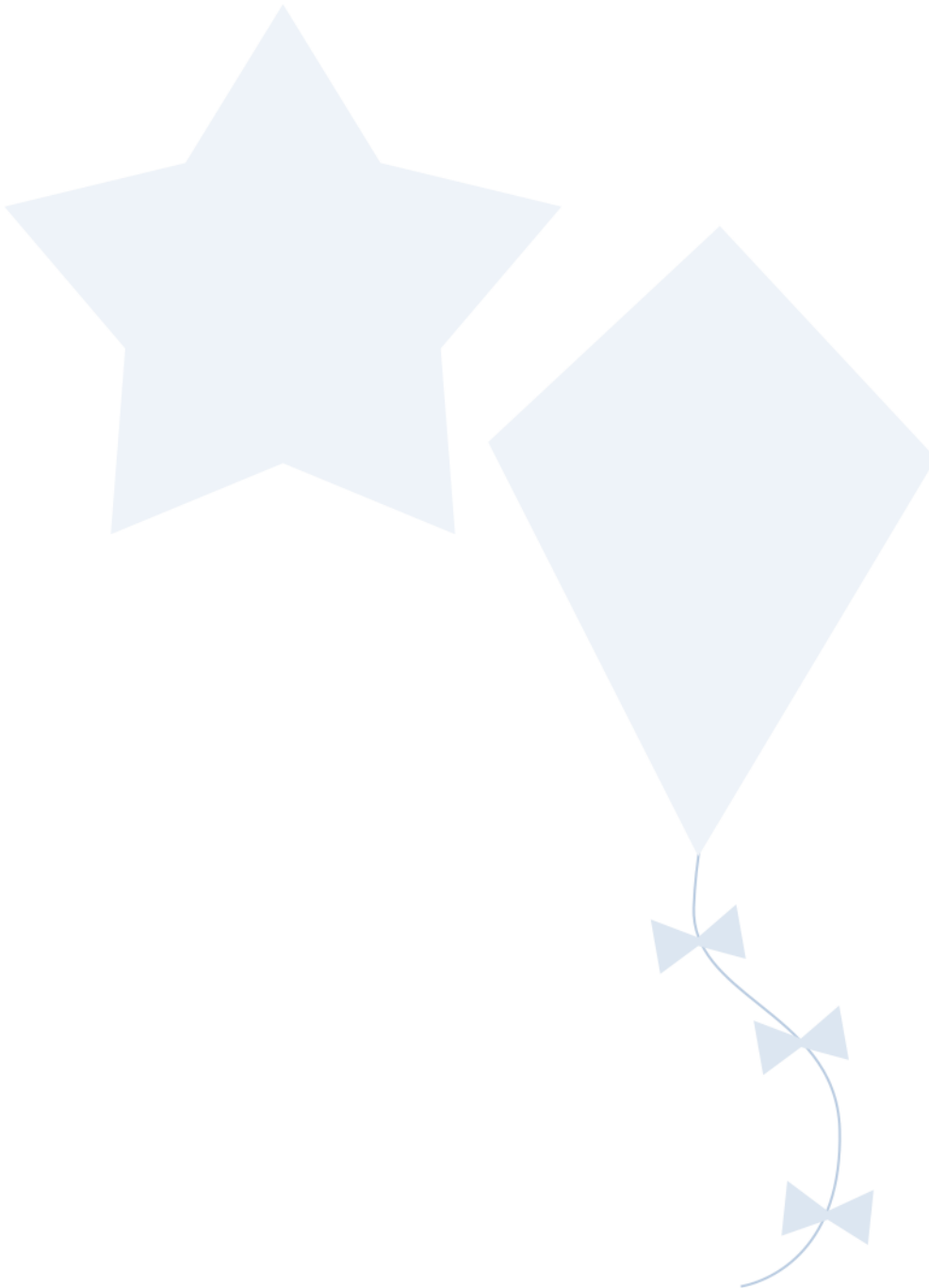
Now you get to buckle in and draft your shape poem! You can use the shapes provided for your poem or draw one of your own and write inside it. Do your best, but also remember to have fun! Use the checklist as you write.

→ Drafting Checklist

My poem . . .

- ☐ has a clear shape.
- ☐ describes the thing it looks like.
- ☐ is at least 4 lines.
- ☐ uses descriptive words and at least one literary device.

(Hint: look at your glossary for a refresh of what these literary devices are.)



Introduction

In this section, we will dive into the wonderful world of sonnets! Despite what you may have heard, sonnets are not only love poems. Their unique rhyme schemes and structure are highly effective for expressing more than just romantic feelings.

There are two main types of sonnets: English (or Shakespearean) and Italian (or Petrarchan). The difference between these two types is mainly based on how they are structured.

English sonnets consist of 3 quatrains in addition to 1 couplet at the very end. The rhyme scheme is usually ABAB CDCD EFEF GG, though it may vary slightly.

Italian sonnets consist of an octave and a sestet. The rhyme scheme is usually ABBA ABBA CDE CDE, though it may vary slightly.

Using what you have learned, determine what type of sonnet each example is. Make sure you mark rhyme scheme, number the lines, and analyze the lengths of the stanzas!

Octave = an 8-line stanza

Sestet = a 6-line stanza

Sonnet Type: ←

☐ English

☐ Italian

"Sonnet 29"

William Shakespeare, 1564–1616

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes	1
I all alone beweep my outcast state,	_____
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,	_____
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,	_____
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,	_____
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,	_____
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,	_____
With what I most enjoy contented least;	_____
Yet in these thoughts my self almost despising,	_____
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,	_____
Like to the lark at break of day arising	_____
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;	_____
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings	_____
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.	_____

"God's Grandeur"

Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844–1889

→ Sonnet Type:

☐ English

☐ Italian

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. 1

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; _____

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil _____

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod? _____

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; _____

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; _____

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil _____

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod. _____

And for all this, nature is never spent; _____

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; _____

And though the last lights off the black West went _____

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs— _____

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent _____

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings. _____

"Sonnet 116"

William Shakespeare, 1564–1616

→ Sonnet Type:
☐ English ☐ Italian

Let me not to the marriage of true minds 1

Admit impediments. Love is not love _____

Which alters when it alteration finds, _____

Or bends with the remover to remove: _____

O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark, _____

That looks on tempests and is never shaken; _____

It is the star to every wandering bark, _____

Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken. _____

Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks _____

Within his bending sickle's compass come; _____

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, _____

But bears it out even to the edge of doom. _____

If this be error and upon me proved, _____

I never writ, nor no man ever loved. _____

Did you notice who wrote the first and third sonnets? That's right—Shakespeare! Now you know where the alternate name for the English sonnet, "Shakespearean sonnet," comes from. Shakespeare was not the first one to use this sonnet form, but he did come up with a rhyme scheme and made the structure of the stanzas distinctive and different from other poetic forms.

The Italian sonnet gets its alternate name of "Petrarchan sonnet" from Francesco Petrarch. This scholar did not invent the Italian sonnet, but he did use it and make it a popular sonnet form.

Vocabulary Assessment continued

Match the types of poetry to their definition.

Free verse •

Narrative poems •

Epic •

Imagist poems •

Lyric poems •

Blank verse •

Italian/Petrarchan sonnets •

English/Shakespearean sonnets •

- longer poems that tell a story
- a long poem consisting of at least 100 stanzas or more that often tells the story of a hero or some other notable person
- poetry that does not use rhyme or a consistent, identifiable meter
- use concrete visual details to form a striking image in the reader's mind
- shorter, musical poems that focus on communicating emotions and feelings
- 3 quatrains in addition to 1 couplet at the very end
- an octave and a sestet
- a kind of poetry that does not use rhyme but does use iambic pentameter

Fill in the blank with the number of lines that each of these types of stanzas contain.

A *quatrain* is a stanza made up of _____ lines that usually contains rhyme.

A *couplet* is made up of _____ lines that rhyme with each other.

A *triple* is a stanza of _____ lines that all rhyme with each other.

A *tercet* is a stanza containing _____ lines where the first and third lines rhyme.

Self-Assessment

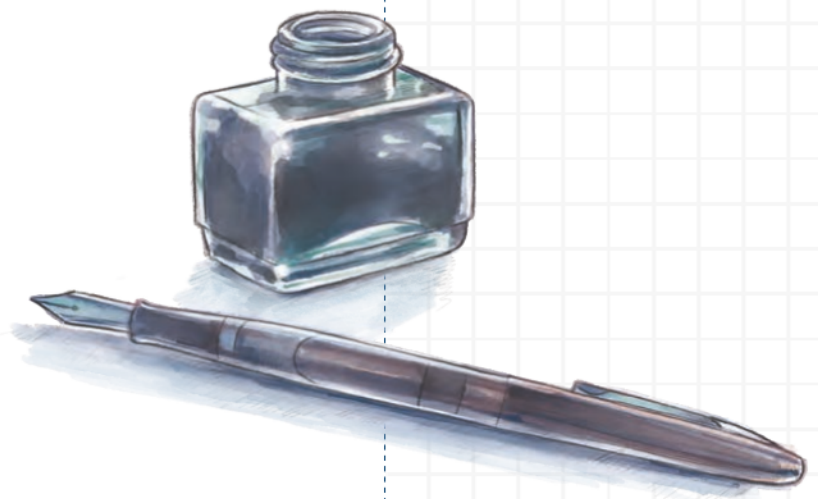
Today, look back through all the poetry you wrote in the first section of this journal. As you review, answer the questions below.

Which kind of poetry did you most enjoy writing? Why?

What aspect of poetry writing did you improve the most in? Give at least one example.

What aspect of poetry do you want to improve in? Why?

Consider creating your own “poetry anthology” with the poetry you have written in this journal. Maybe your poems center around a common theme or show a progression of some kind. You may even wish to illustrate your poems or a cover for your anthology! You have worked hard, and an anthology would be a great way to share your work or look back on it.



Introduction

In a way, this unit is kind of funny since this whole book is a kind of journal. However, up until now, you have not gotten to choose how to use this journal. A **journal** is a record of experiences, ideas, or reflections someone keeps for their own private use. People use journals for anything from tracking health and fitness, to personal development goals, to recording how their day went and their thoughts about it.

Some, like the famous American explorers Lewis and Clark, used journals to record specific details and observations about journeys or trips they have taken and the world around them.

Read the excerpt from Clark's journal below, and then answer the questions. Don't worry about the misspellings and strange punctuation—at this point in history, standard spelling and punctuation were still being developed.

Journal Entry of William Clark, June 18, 1804

June 18th Monday Some rain last night, and Some hard Showers this morning which delay our work verry much, Send out Six hunters in the Prarie on the L S. they kill 5 Deer & Coltr a Bear, which verry large & fat, the party to wok at the oars, make rope, & jurk their meat all Day Dry our wet Sales &c. in the evening, The misquiter verry bad

What is Clark explaining in this entry?

What specific details does he include?

What do you think the purpose of this journal was?

Since Clark was recording what he learned about the new territories in the United States, the details he recorded were mainly about weather, distance, travel, and animals. As he explored, he wrote about what he learned and saw.

We can do this too! Though we might not be traveling through unknown lands, we can record the things we notice, learn, experience, and think about each day.

Research and Brainstorm

To help you figure out what kind of journaling you'd like to do, research some other published journals! You can search in the nonfiction section in your library or look up journals of historical people on the Internet. Sometimes bloggers keep online journals for extended periods of time. Many missionaries have kept journals as well, so maybe you could look for those kinds of books!

Now, brainstorm ideas of what your purpose for journaling might be. Do you want to record habits like Bible reading, exercise, eating, or practicing a skill? Would you like to write out prayers or goals at the beginning of your day? Would you rather write down your thoughts and feelings at the end of the day? Could you record observations of nature, sketch, or write down creative ideas you have? Will your journal contain mostly words, or will you include sketches as well?

Decide what you would like to journal about for each day in this section.

→ As you read various kinds of journals, keep the questions below in mind.

- How long are the entries on each day?
- Over what period of time were the journals kept?
- What point of view is used in these journals?
- What research, ideas, or emotions are recorded in these journals?
- Do the journals state a purpose or not?



Planning

Today you get to plan out how to tell your story. Use the story map to help you do this! (Note: if you need a refresh of plot and mapping out your story, review Day 2 in the Short Story section.)

3. Climax:

2. Conflict:

4. Falling Action:

Plot Map

1. Exposition:

Opening sentence (can be a statement or a question) that grabs your audience's attention:

5.

Denouement:

Concluding sentence:

In our next lesson, you'll get to start writing!

Finalizing and Publishing

Today, finalize and share your work (this may include recording a podcast or video)! Use the finalizing checklists you have worked through in this journal as a guide where they apply.



Welcome to *In Your Own Words*, the Creative Writing Journal that will allow you to write about things that interest you while learning about specific forms of poetry and prose.

This journal will give you exposure to a wide variety of both poetry and prose creative writing, as well as the technical terminology inherent in each genre. As you read carefully curated examples of each kind of literature and practice analyzing them, you will learn all you need to know in order to spread your wings and try it out on your own.



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