

Sample Lesson Sequences

Wondering where to start with Mystery Writing? Click on your grade to see our suggestions.

Lesson Sequences

[Kindergarten](#)

[1st Grade](#)

[2nd Grade](#)

[3rd Grade](#)

[4th Grade](#)

[5th Grade](#)

For Lesson Details & Standards

[Mystery Writing Standards](#)
[Alignment Guide 2025–2026](#)



Drawing to Write

Start with lessons once or twice a week to help students connect drawing and early writing skills.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Pictures and Words	Everyday Signs 20 mins		Students learn that pictures and words communicate information.
Drawing with Shapes	Street Scene 20 mins		Students learn how to see and draw shapes to make people, houses, and trees.
Add Details to Drawings	Beach Day Postcard 20 mins		Students add details to drawings to communicate more clearly.
Label a Picture	Vet's Office 20 mins		Students label parts of their drawings using words.
Draw and Write	Fashion Show 20 mins		Students add details to a drawing and complete a sentence to describe it.

Parts of a Sentence

Next, these lessons show how words come together to form sentences.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Nouns	Name the Animals 20 mins		Students learn about nouns and create captions for photos.
Verbs	Act Like the Animals 20 mins		Students learn about verbs by acting out actions.
Create a Sentence	Class Zoo 20 mins		Students learn the parts of a simple sentence and practice building one.
Period	Try Out a Period 20 mins		Students learn that sentences end with a period.
Sentence Mechanics	Backyard Bugs 20 mins		Students learn and practice when to add capitals, spaces and periods to a sentence.

Sentence Basics

Start with these lessons to build an understanding of sentences and support early sentence writing.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Subject and Action	Butterfly Parade 20 mins		Students identify two parts of a sentence: the subject and the action.
Capitalization and Period	Dino Day 20 mins		Students learn about and practice adding capitals and periods to sentences.
Identifying Fragments	Kangaroo Care 20 mins		Students identify sentence fragments (versus complete sentences).
Fixing Fragments	Penguin Patrol 20 mins		Students practice fixing fragments by completing the sentence.
Scrambled Sentences	Sideline Scramble 20 mins		Students put mixed up words in the right order to make a sentence.
Writing Complete Sentences	Cat Cafe 20 mins		Students write complete sentences based on a prompt.

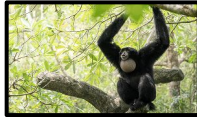
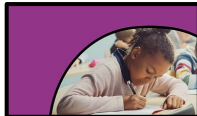
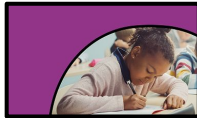
Types of Sentences

These lessons help students practice writing statements, questions, commands, and exclamations.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Statements and Questions	Telling or Asking? 20 mins		Students identify statements and questions and then practice distinguishing each.
Commands	How to Be Bossy 20 mins		Students learn command sentences and practice using them.
Exclamations	Show Big Feelings 20 mins		Students learn exclamatory sentences and then practice using them.
Sentence Types	Trail Talk 20 mins		Students write two sentences and apply their understanding of the four sentence types.

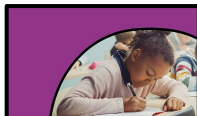
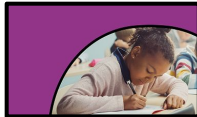
Teach Narrative Writing

Build skills for narrative writing with this suggested sequence of lessons.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Partnering	Balloon Crew 30 mins		Students learn about partnering and then practice listening and following directions.
Onomatopoeia	Jungle Sounds 30 mins		Students learn about onomatopoeia and then use it in their writing.
Using And	Raccoon Day Poster 45 mins		Students use “and” to combine simple sentences into compound sentences.
Pre-Assessment: Narrative Writing	The Garage Sale Bandit 30 mins		Pre-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Narrative Writing Unit - Planning - Drafting the Beginning - Drafting the Middle - Drafting the Ending - Editing	Campsite Bandit 5 lessons ~2 weeks		Students plan and draft a fictional story using descriptions, character feelings and character actions.
Post-Assessment: Narrative Writing	The Beach Bandit 30 mins		Post-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Onomatopoeia Practice	Pinball Game 15 mins		Students get additional practice using onomatopoeia.
Writing Prompt	Make a Monster! 15 mins		Students use a prompt to write independently using description.
Setting Writing Goals	My Writing Journey 30 mins		Students reflect on their writing and make a plan for future writings.

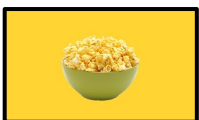
Teach Narrative Writing

Build skills for narrative writing with this suggested sequence of lessons.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Adding Details	<u>It Jumped</u> 30 mins		Students expand sentences by adding nouns, adjectives, prepositional phrases.
Hyperbole	<u>Best Trip Ever!</u> 30 mins		Students learn about hyperbole and then apply it to their writing.
Elaborating with Feelings	<u>Roller Coaster Ride</u> 45 mins		Students revise a narrative text passage by adding descriptive details, actions and feelings.
Pre-Assessment: Narrative Writing	<u>Pond Stories</u> 30 mins		Pre-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Intro to Narrative Writing	<u>Parts of a Story</u> 30 mins		Students learn the characteristics of narrative writing.
Narrative Writing Unit - Planning Your Story - Brainstorming a Solution - Drafting a Lead - Drafting with Character Thoughts - Revising and Editing	<u>Constellation Stories</u> 5 lessons ~2 weeks		Students plan, draft and edit a complete fictional story including descriptions, character thoughts and actions.
Post-Assessment: Narrative Writing	<u>Nocturnal Creatures Story</u> 30 mins		Post-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Adding Details Practice	<u>It Leaped</u> 15 mins		Students get additional practice adding details.
Writing Prompt	<u>The Backpack Monster</u> 15 mins		Students use a prompt to write independently with elaboration.

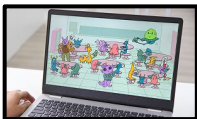
Teach Narrative Writing

Build skills for narrative writing with this suggested sequence of lessons.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Personification	A Weekend in the City 30 mins		Students learn about personification and add it to their writing.
Revising Words	Curious Collections 30 mins		Students learn about revising through substituting and then practice in a provided text.
Pre-Assessment: Narrative Writing	Playground Stories 30 mins		Pre-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Intro to Narrative Writing	Parts of a Story 30 mins		Students learn the characteristics of narrative writing.
Narrative Writing Unit • Story Planning • Beginning a Story • Transition Words & Phrases • Story Endings • Editing and Sharing	Amusement Park 5 lessons ~2 weeks		Students plan, draft, edit and revise a complete realistic fiction story including dialogue, actions, emotions and use transition words and phrases.
Post-Assessment: Narrative Writing	Sports Stories 30 mins		Post-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Personification Practice	Amusement Park 15 mins		Students get more practice using personification.
Writing Prompt	Sensational Smells 15 mins		Students use a prompt to write independently using sensory details.
Setting Writing Goals	My Writing Journey 30 mins		Students reflect on their writing and make a plan for future writings.

Teach Narrative Writing

Build skills for narrative writing with this suggested sequence of lessons.

Focus	Lesson Title		Description
Similes	Sea Monster 30 mins		Students learn about similes and then use them in their writing.
Character Traits	Alex the Alien 30 mins		Students learn about character traits to create characters with thoughts, actions and words.
Pre-Assessment: Narrative Writing	Picnic Adventure 30 mins		Pre-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Intro to Narrative Writing	Parts of a Story 30 mins		Students learn the characteristics of narrative writing.
Narrative Writing Unit • Planning • Leads • Drafting • Drafting & Revising • End Your Adventure	Australian Adventures 5 lessons ~2 weeks		Students plan, write and revise a complete realistic adventure story focusing on character development and plot.
Post-Assessment: Narrative Writing	Pet Store Adventure 30 mins		Post-unit writing prompt with rubric and checklist included.
Simile Practice	Hammerhead Shark 15 mins		Students get more practice using similes.
Writing Prompt	The Unexpected Guest 15 mins		Students use a prompt to write independently using sequence.
Setting Writing Goals	My Writing Journey 30 mins		Students reflect on their writing and make a plan for future writings.