

The FUNbook of Creative Writing

REM 104D

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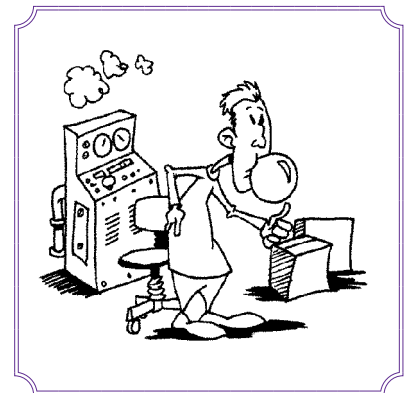
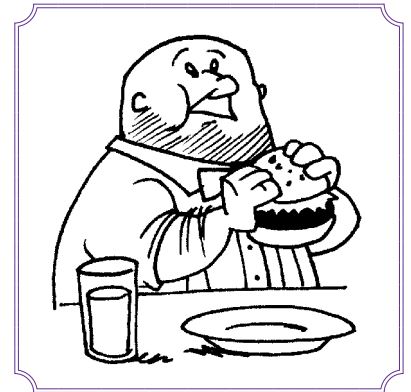
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Dear Teachers and Parents,

Faced with a writing assignment, many students go into shock, recover, and then ask, "What do I write about?" The **FUNbook of Creative Writing** provides reluctant writers with story starters that will help ease the shock. As a teacher for over twenty years, I know how difficult it is to motivate students to write original stories using their own imaginations. Many language arts textbooks lack good, funny, creative, and attention-grabbing story starters. The story starters in this book are about characters with unusual names that are involved in extraordinary situations. My students love to read them aloud and even come up with their own ideas.

The **FUNbook of Creative Writing** can be used with large or small groups. Write one of the story starters on the board before class begins. Ask the students to think about what would happen next in the story. Have volunteers tell how they would continue the story and how they would end it. Telling stories aloud helps other students think of their own ideas when it is time to put them on paper.

Another way to ease reluctant writers into the process is to have each person in the class contribute the next sentence in a story. I do this with my students and when parents visit the room, the students proudly point to the part of the story that they contributed.

Sometimes I put each story starter on an index card and ask each student to pick one out of a box. I also have two students write a story as a team. In this way, slower students can learn from their partners as they exchange ideas and thereby not be solely responsible for the entire assignment.

I know that the **FUNbook of Creative Writing** will motivate your students in class or at home.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Paul

ABOUT THE BOOK

The attention-getting, humorous story starters in this book will surely spark the imagination of the most reluctant story writer. The antics of characters with unusual names will motivate young writers to complete the stories and even create their own stories about the subjects. Reading Level is 3.5–4.5.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dennis Paul has been an educator for over twenty years. He taught for eleven years in a one-room school, working with students in grades K-8. He also has served as a special education teacher in a school for homeless students, and as a teacher for acute care adolescent hospital programs.

Currently, he is a special education teacher for the Juvenile Detention Facility in Mesa, Arizona. For many years, he has been creating math word problems, story starters, games, and other materials, to help motivate his own students.

SUGGESTIONS

Below are suggestions for expanded use of the ***FUNbook of Creative Writing***.

- ✓ Have students share their stories with the class through oral reading.
- ✓ Place students together to create a cooperative story.
- ✓ Help students spin off the story ideas to create original plots.
- ✓ Have the whole class brainstorm ideas for various conclusions to a story.
- ✓ The teacher underlines selected words in students' stories and has them find synonyms for those words (as a vocabulary enrichment activity).
- ✓ Divide students into groups to create dialogue for the characters and then act out the story for the class.
- ✓ Have students draw original artwork relating to each story written.
- ✓ Collect each writer's own stories in an individual Fun Folder of Creative Writing.

