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# Introduction



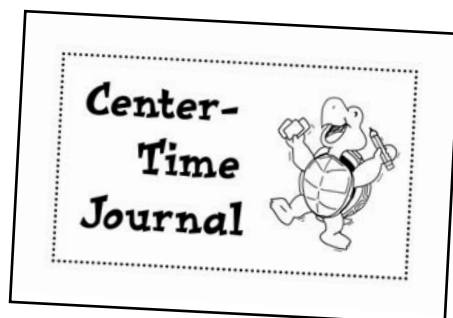
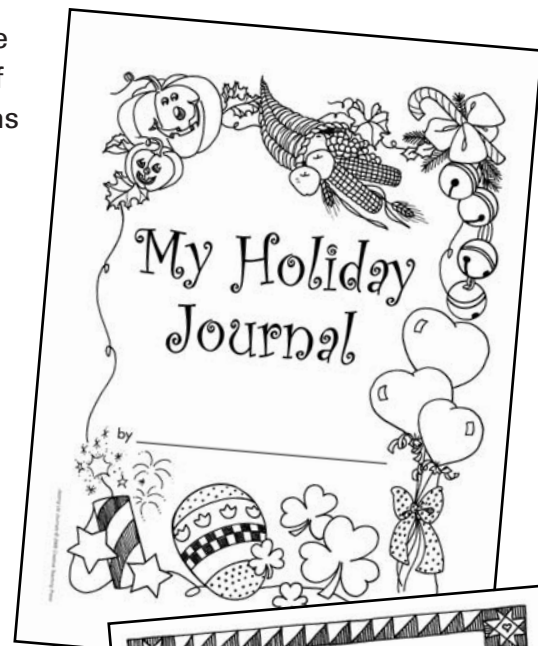
Journal writing is an easy way to collect ideas, thoughts, and responses written by children. The hard part is keeping children motivated to do their best work and teaching them how to write effectively. *Jazzing Up Journals* gives you dozens of ideas for captivating children's interest in writing and suggestions for developing their writing skills.

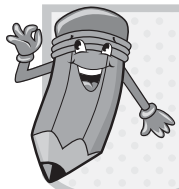
The purpose of journal writing with emergent and beginning readers is to teach them the concepts of print and basic writing skills. Children are encouraged to manipulate sounds and letters in order to print the words that express their *schema*, or what they know.

Journal writing is effective for children at all levels of literacy development because they are encouraged to write about their own experiences. As children write the stories of their lives on paper, they become interested in sharing their work with others. This sharing time inspires children to read and write more and more.

*Jazzing Up Journals* helps you incorporate the benefits of journal writing into every aspect of your curriculum. You will find simple directions for making a dozen unique cross-curricular journals. There are also practical ideas for managing journal writing time and tips for conferencing, publishing, and keeping children motivated to do their best work.

*Jazzing Up Journals* is a comprehensive approach to journal writing. The varied ideas in this resource will help you develop and maintain a classroom routine that emphasizes how much fun it is to write.





# The Basics of Journal Writing



## ***Why Is Journal Writing Beneficial?***

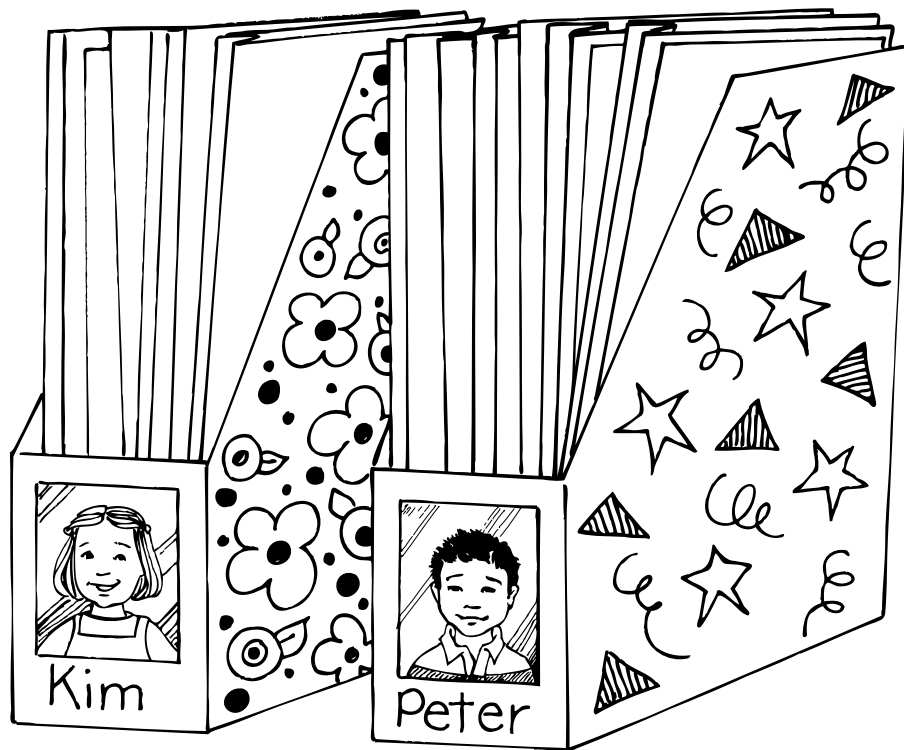
Journal writing promotes authentic writing. In journals, children are encouraged to write about their experiences or their response to something they have seen, heard, felt, or imagined. Children feel comfortable writing about personal topics and gain confidence when they do.

Journal writing also presents a terrific opportunity to model writing skills. The minilessons in *Jazzing Up Journals* help children become better writers as they learn to apply phonics skills; brainstorm and organize ideas; use punctuation; develop focused, detailed writing; follow spelling rules; incorporate letter and word spacing; form letters; and write in complete sentences.

## ***Who Is Capable of Journal Writing?***

The youngest learners will enjoy and benefit from journal writing. Emergent writers move through three stages of writing. First, a child puts meaning on paper in the form of a drawing. Over time, a child creates meaning by combining pictures and text. Finally, a child writes meaningful text independent of pictures.





### ***What Are the Components of Journal Writing?***

Journal writing is most successful when the following four components are included: modeled minilessons, actual writing, conferencing, and sharing. *Jazzing Up Journals* shows you how to seamlessly incorporate all four elements into your regular writing program.

### ***When Do Children Write in Journals?***

Try introducing journal writing into one or all of the following parts of your learning day:

- ➊ As soon as children have settled into their seats first thing in the morning
- ➋ When children are recording the work they have done at a center
- ➌ When children are recording their thoughts about math, science, and social studies lessons

### ***How Are Journals Made and Managed?***

Journals are very simple to construct. Fold several pieces of unlined or lined paper together under a construction paper cover, and staple the book at the crease. You could also insert paper into a three-ring binder or a three-prong pocket folder to make journals that can be expanded over time. Encourage children to decorate the covers of their journals, or have them use the reproducible covers in this resource.

Give each child a rectangular magazine container. Photograph each child, and attach his or her photo and name to the front of the container. Encourage children to store their journals in this personalized box.



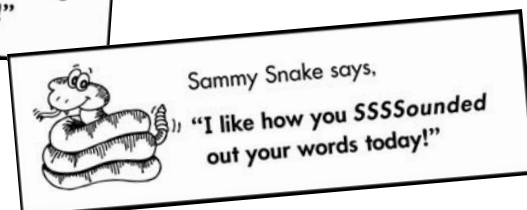
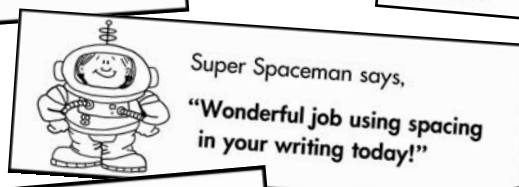
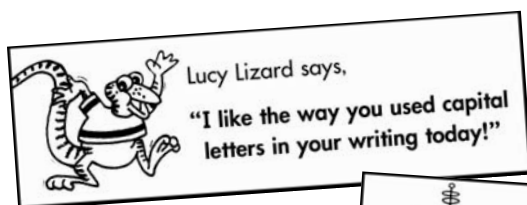
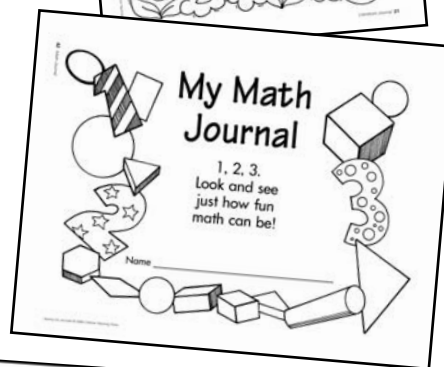
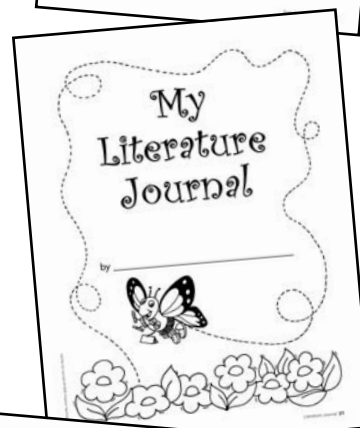
# How to Use This Book

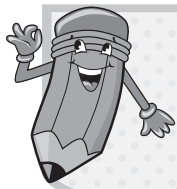


Before you begin using journals in your classroom, make the “tools” children will need to develop as a writer. A handy Word Wall list, a sheet featuring the sounds of the alphabet, and a list of favorite words are just a few of the tools (see pages 7–19) that will help children expand their vocabulary. Make a My Writing Toolbox (see page 7) for each child to store these tools that will help him or her write better journals. Encourage children to keep their “toolbox” close whenever they write.



Then choose a type of journal to introduce, such as the Literature Journal or Math Journal. Copy the reproducible pages, and follow the simple directions to make an eye-catching journal for each child in your class. Use the featured thematic mini-lesson and coordinating reproducible pages or graphic organizer to teach children how to write an authentic entry in their journal. Conference with each child about his or her writing, and attach an Award Ticket (pages 108–112) to children’s work to motivate them to continue to do their best journal writing.





# Tools for Journal Writing



The following “tools” will help children organize and transport everything they need to successfully write in their journals. Children will have sight words, classmates’ names, and other useful information at their fingertips.

## Materials

- My Writing Toolbox reproducible (page 11)
- glue
- two-pocket folders

### My Writing Toolbox

Make a copy of the My Writing Toolbox reproducible for each child, and glue each copy onto a separate folder. Write each child’s name on the front of his or her folder. Tell children to store the other tools for writing that they will receive in this folder.



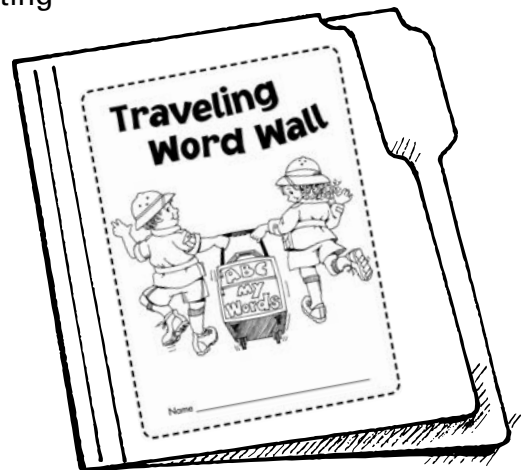
## Materials

- Traveling Word Wall reproducible (page 12)
- Alphabet Grid reproducibles (pages 13–14)
- glue
- file folders

### Traveling Word Wall

Make a copy of the Traveling Word Wall and Alphabet Grid reproducibles for each child. Glue the Traveling Word Wall title page to the front of each child’s file folder. Glue both pages of the Alphabet Grid to the inside of the folder. Write the child’s name on the front of his or her folder. Give children their folder, and encourage them to insert their Traveling Word Wall into their My Writing

Toolbox folder (see above). Tell children they will write on this Word Wall list new sight words that they learn.



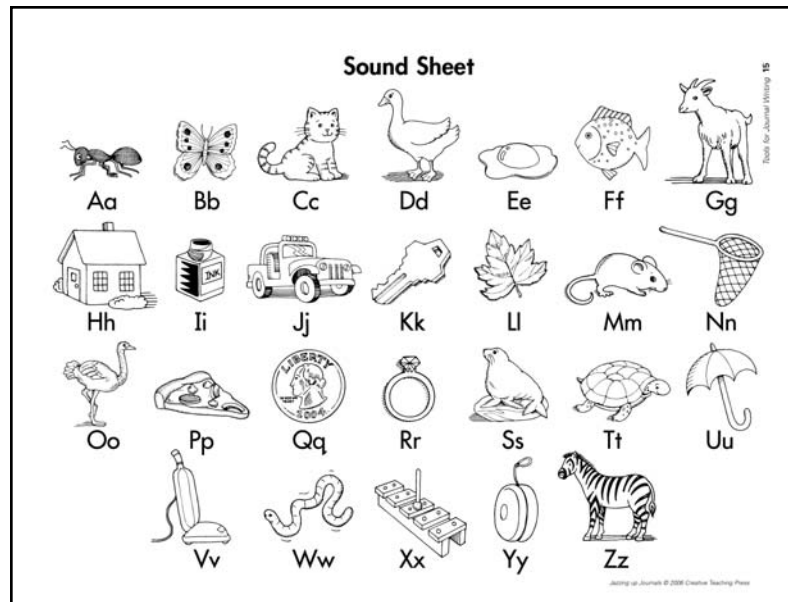
## Materials

- Sound Sheet reproducible (page 15)
- card stock

## Sound Sheet

Make a copy of the Sound Sheet reproducible on card stock for each child. Tell children to insert this reproducible in their My Writing Toolbox folder (see page 7). Tell children to use their Sound Sheet whenever they need help with a new letter. For

example, if a child asks what a *b* looks like, you can tell him or her to find the letter that is beneath the butterfly.



## Materials

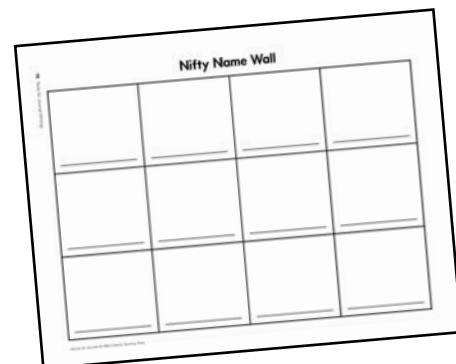
- Nifty Name Wall reproducible (page 16)
- camera
- scissors
- glue
- marker

## Nifty Name Wall

Take each child's picture with a camera, and print the photographs. Cut out each child's face. Make several copies of the Nifty Name Wall reproducible. Invite children to help you arrange the photos in alphabetical order by first name. Glue one face to each square. Write the first name of each child below his or her picture. Make copies of the finished Nifty

Name Wall repro-

ducibles for each child. Have children put the copies in their My Writing Toolbox folder (see page 7). Encourage them to look at the names on these papers when they need to spell a classmate's name.



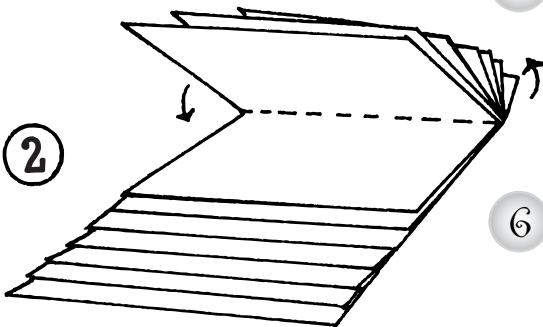
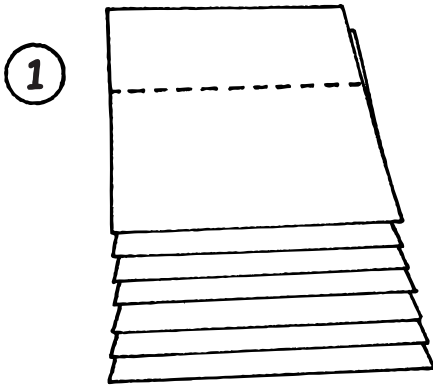
## Materials

- My Favorite Words reproducible (page 17)
- copy paper
- file folders
- stapler
- glue

## My Favorite Words Folder

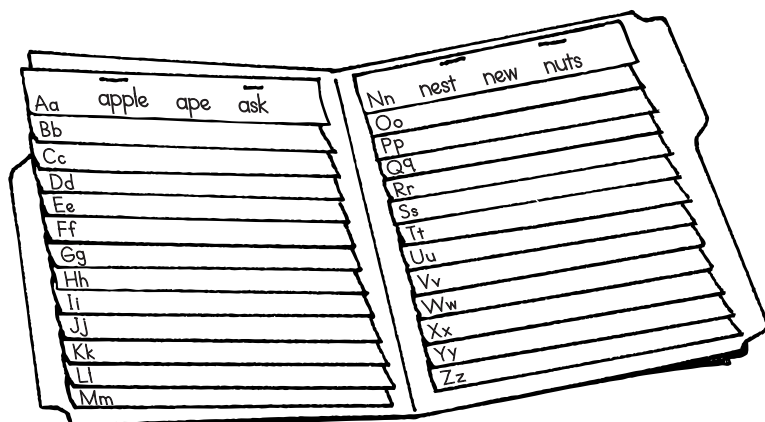
In advance, prepare a My Favorite Words folder for each child. For each folder, you will need to make two “step books.” To make a “step book”:

- 1 Layer seven sheets of paper on top of one another so that a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.25 cm) margin appears at the bottom of each sheet.
- 2 Hold the papers securely in place and fold over the top sheet so that a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " margin appears at the bottom. Repeat this with the remaining sheets of paper.
- 3 Make another “step book” using seven more sheets of paper.
- 4 Staple one step book on the left side of a file folder and staple another “step book” on the right side.
- 5 Write the upper- and lowercase letters from A to M along the left margin of the “step book” on the left-hand side. Write the letters from N to Z along the left margin of the “step book” on the right-hand side.
- 6 Glue the My Favorite Words reproducible to the front of the file folder to create a cover.



Give each child a preassembled My Favorite Words folder. Invite children to write their name on the cover. Then instruct them to write their favorite words on the step with the matching first letter. As an option, have children draw small pictures to help them remember their favorite words. Tell children to place this folder in their My Writing Toolbox folder (see page 7).

3



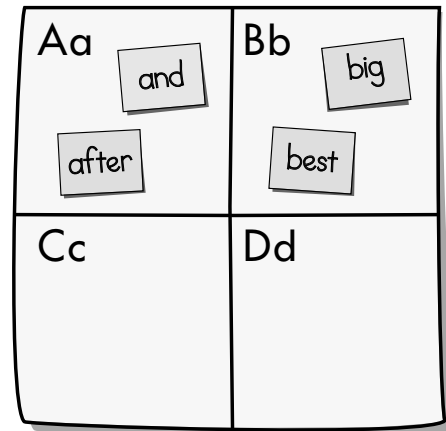
## Materials

- chart paper
- marker
- sticky notes

## Alphabox Grid

Using chart paper, prepare an alphabox grid. Create a square for each letter of the alphabet. Write the upper- and lowercase letter in the top left corner of each square.

Invite children to select their favorite words from the stories you have read together. Write each word on a sticky note, and have children place each word on the chart paper in the “alphabox” with the matching first letter. Once you have completed a unit of study, remove all of the sticky notes from the chart paper, and ask children to decide on their five favorite words. Tell children to add these five words to their My Favorite Words folder (see page 9).



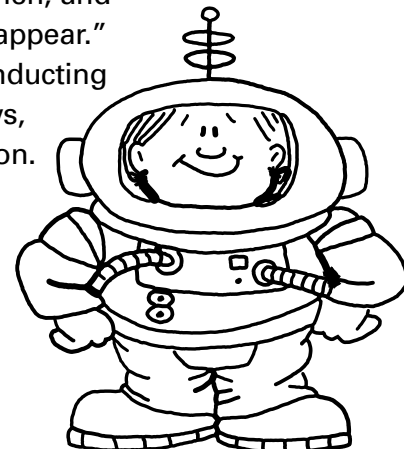
## Materials

- “Space”man reproducible (page 18)
- “Space”man Helpers reproducible (page 19)
- card stock
- scissors
- self-adhesive laminating sheets
- adhesive putty
- marker
- chart paper
- glue
- craft sticks

## Making Space for the “Space”man

Copy the “Space”man reproducible on card stock, cut out the “space”men, and laminate them. Place putty on the back of each cutout. Use “space”men to show children how to leave spaces between words.

Give several children a “space”man cutout. Write the first word of a sentence on chart paper. Invite a child to place a “space”man after it. Write another word, and have a different child place a “space”man after it. Continue until you have written several sentences. Then remove the “space”men, and point out the spaces that “appear.” Use “space”men when conducting modeled writing, daily news, interactive writing, and so on.



Copy the “Space”man Helpers reproducible on card stock. Cut apart and glue each “space”man to a craft stick. Give children a “space”man helper to place in their My Writing Toolbox folder (see page 7) for use in daily writing.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

