

# Daily Activity Journal

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Book 1

with

- Daily writing prompts
- Fun activities
- Integrated grammar drills

**No Grading Allowed** ☺

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Dear friend of a writer,

I am so glad you purchased this journal for your student. It means that you believe writing can and should be fun for everyone. I wrote this activity journal for my own kids because I wanted them to have a safe and fun place to discover the joy of writing. I wanted to provide a place where they could write without fear of being edited, corrected or scrutinized. I wanted their journal to be the first workbook they wanted to do at the beginning of a school day. The objectives of this journal are very simple:

- 1) To increase creative expression through writing.
- 2) To experience fun, and enjoyment through writing.
- 3) To increase self-esteem and self-awareness through writing.

The one thing I ask is that you do **NOT** grade, edit or scrutinize your student's work in this book. I realized through my own kids that students need the freedom to write without the pressure of being graded. Grading will stifle the creative flow and trust me; if you stifle the student there will be no writing going on. Continue working with your student daily on English and grammar skills and it will show up in his/her daily journal writing. Day 1 will look very different from day 50 if you are working on grammar/composition text during the school year. Let this journal be something that is all their own. I encourage you to go back and look through the pages so you can see their progress and creativity, all the while encouraging your student for a job well done. But please, do not point out to your student what they have done wrong.

Your student will need the following to make his/her journal writing a success;

- 1) Write in his/her journal at least two times each week or more. This could be before, during or after school, it does not matter as long as they are getting time to write.
- 2) Sharp pencils
- 3) Crayons
- 4) Glue Stick
- 5) Scissors
- 6) Colored Pencils
- 7) Tape Recorder: There are a few activities that require the student to dictate a story into a tape recorder. They will need to play it back and write down what they dictated. A portable tape recorder will work best, but please use whatever you have on hand.
- 8) Lots of encouragement!

Please cover the following with your student before giving him/her this ***Daily Activity Journal***:

- 1) Keep your pencil moving. Try not to think and plan too much once you start writing.
- 2) Don't edit. Don't stop and cross things out. Don't worry about spelling or grammar and especially don't edit your ideas. **Just keep writing.** In the back of the book there is a list of commonly misspelled words, sample adverbs, adjectives, adverbs and nouns for you to look at if you need help. Or, you can always ask Dad or Mom for help.
- 3) Do your best to write in your journal at least twice a week.
- 4) Read "Proofreading" on page 8 before getting started.
- 5) **Have fun and keep writing!**

Please feel free to email me with any comments or questions. If you have an idea for a prompt or activity, I am always interested! And remember....  
Have fun and keep writing!

Mrs. Sherri MacLean ☺

# Thank You!

I would like to dedicate this book first to God who I believe gave me the 'green light' to write it and all the ideas. For with Him all things are possible.

To my husband who gave me the thumbs up and said "Go for it"! You help make my dreams come true and I thank you for believing in me. And **THANK YOU** for providing me with all the latest, greatest and best tools to get the job done!

To my children for being my inspiration. Reading all your journal entries are one of my day's highlights. I have learned so much about each of you through your writings.

To the girls who participated in my Creative Writing class (Anna, Emma, Christy, Alex and Sophia). Thank you for your enthusiasm and for the inspiration to finish this project.

To my dear friend and business partner, Paula, for ALL the brainstorming sessions late at night, for being so enthusiastic, supportive and excited about this project.

Finally....

To all the students who tried and tested this journal:  
Stephen M., Michael M., Amy M., Sophia M., Isaiah M., Sarah Z.,  
Christine H., Jenna D., Kiley D., Alex R., Abigail L., Emma T.,  
Lily K., Christy P., Hannah R., Caleb R., Anna O., and Caleb C.

I love you all! And remember..... keep writing! 😊

# Proofreading

Though your journal entries will not be graded, keep the following rules and suggestions in mind while writing. Have fun and keep writing! 😊

## Checking Your Work

1. Begin special names with capital letters.
2. Use a capital letter to write the word I.
3. Begin every sentence with a capital letter.
4. Use a period to end a statement.
5. Use a period to end a command.
6. Use a question mark to end a sentence that asks something.
7. Use an exclamation point after a word or sentence that tells strong feeling.

## Using Commas

1. Use a comma:
  - between names of cities and states (ex; Denver, CO)
  - between the month and year (ex; December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006)
  - after a greeting (ex; Dear Aunt Net,)
  - after a closing (Ex; Love, ..... Olivia)
  - where needed

## Writing Story Parts

1. Every story should have a beginning, middle and an end.

## Writing With Interesting Verbs

1. Verbs tell action or help make a statement. Use exact verbs to make your writing more interesting.

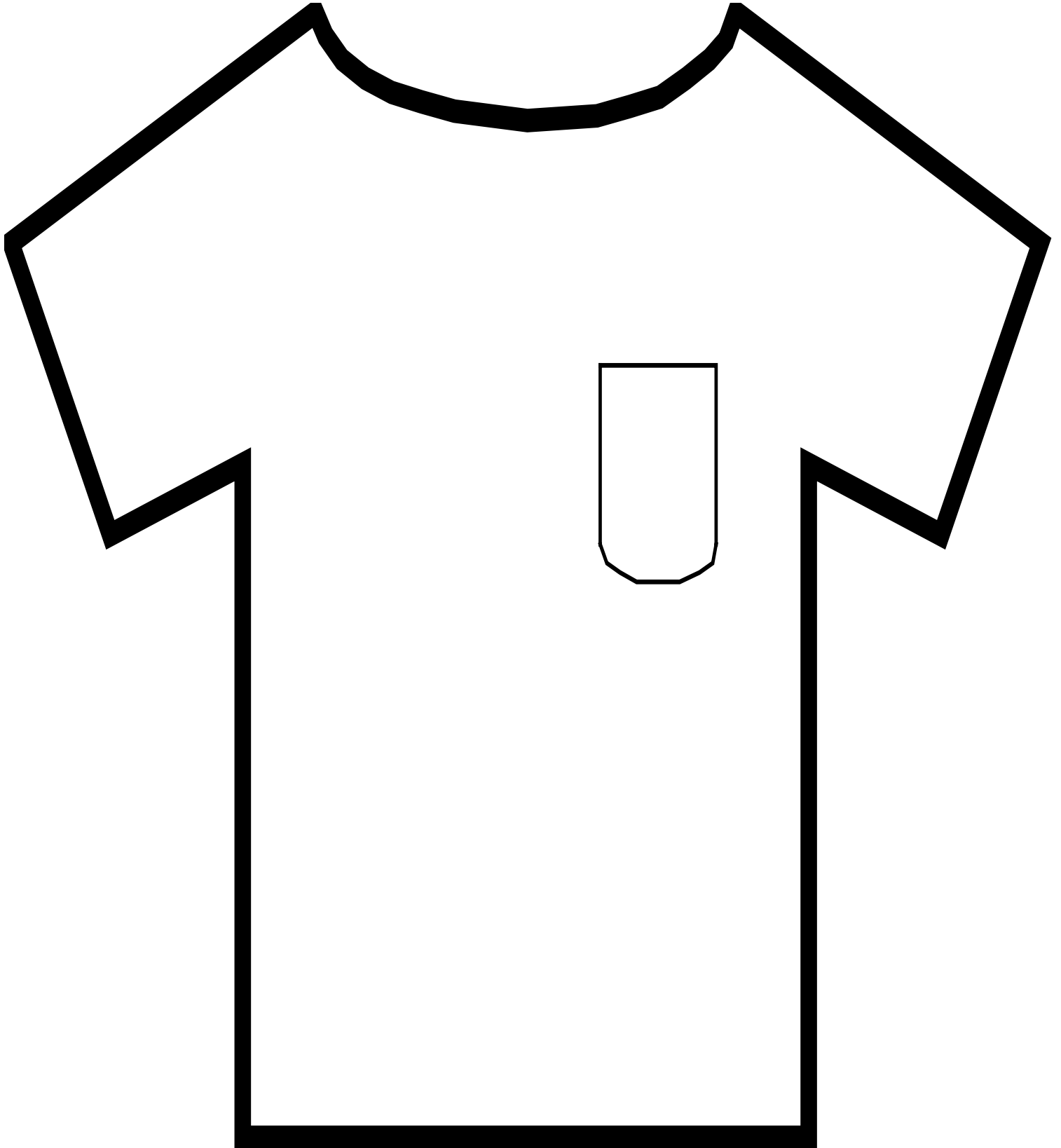
## Sentences of Fact, Opinion and Make Believe

1. A fact is a sentence that is true.
2. An opinion tells what someone thinks or feels.
3. Words like think, feel, best, and should are used to state an opinion.
4. You can write stories about things that are make believe.



## Day 1: Activity - Design a T-Shirt

**Directions:** Design a t-shirt for your Mom. Keep her in mind when you design it. What colors does she like? What designs are her favorite? Does she like flowers, stripes, or circles? Be creative and use crayons or colored pencils to make your design.





## Day 2: Activity - Flower Discovery



**Directions:** You discovered a flower that no other human eye has seen. A popular horticulture magazine has asked you to name it, draw it and describe it for an article. Be creative, and detailed in your descriptions. You could be famous!

Name of the Flower: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Discovered By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Flower? \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Smell of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Shape of Flower: \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed Notes and Other Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of the flower you discovered below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing the discovered flower.

## Commonly Misspelled Words

**a, an**

about  
again  
all right  
almost  
also  
always

**an, a**

and  
animals  
another  
anyway

**are, our, hour**

around

**Arthur, author**

asked  
babies  
beautiful

**because, cause**

before  
believe  
bought

**buy, by**

came  
can't  
caught

**cause, because**

children  
clothes  
coming

could  
course  
cousin  
decided  
didn't  
doesn't  
don't

dropped  
enough  
especially  
every  
everybody  
everyone  
everything

except  
excited  
favorite  
February

**fill, feel**

first  
for  
friend  
friends  
frightened  
from

getting  
going  
happening

have  
heard

heat  
here  
him

hole  
**hour, our, are**

I'm  
interesting  
into

**it's, its**

jumped  
knew

**know, no**

laugh  
lets

library  
like  
little  
looked  
many  
money  
mother  
mourning  
myself  
name  
named  
new

**no, know**

off  
once

**one, won**

**our, hour, are**

people  
pretty  
probably

**quiet, quite**

really  
**read, red**  
**right, write**

running  
said  
school  
some  
something  
sometimes

started  
stopped  
surprise  
swimming  
terrible  
than  
that's

**than, then**

**there, their, they're**  
they  
things  
thought  
threw  
through  
tired

**to, too, two**

together  
trouble  
until

usually  
very  
want

wanted

**were, we're**

was  
wear  
weather

went  
what  
when

where  
whether  
who  
whole

with  
woman  
**won, one**

won't  
would  
wouldn't  
write

**you're, your**

## Parts of Speech

"Parts of speech" are the basic types of words that English has. The eight parts of speech are: *nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions* and *interjections*.

<h1>Noun</h1>	<p>A noun is a naming word. It names a person, place, thing, or idea.</p> <p>Examples: <i>cowboy, theatre, box, thought, tree, kindness, arrival</i></p> <p>Sentence: <i>Sophia</i> had an idea.</p>
<h1>Pronoun</h1>	<p>A pronoun is used instead of a noun, to avoid repeating the noun.</p> <p>Examples: <i>I, you, he, she, it, we, they</i></p> <p>Sentence: <i>She</i> is pretty.</p>
<h1>Adjective</h1>	<p>An adjective is a word that describes a noun. It tells you something about the noun.</p> <p>Examples: <i>big, yellow, thin, amazing, beautiful, quick, important</i></p> <p>Sentence: She is an <i>amazing</i> girl.</p>
<h1>Verb</h1>	<p>A verb is a word that describes an action (doing something) or a state (being something).</p> <p>Examples: <i>walk, talk, think, believe, live, like, want</i></p> <p>Sentence: Olivia <i>has met</i> you already.</p>
<h1>Adverb</h1>	<p>An adverb is a word that usually describes a verb. It tells you how something is done. It may also tell you when or where something happened.</p> <p>Examples: <i>slowly, intelligently, well, yesterday, tomorrow, here, everywhere</i></p> <p>Sentence: They left <i>early</i>.</p>
<h1>Conjunction</h1>	<p>A conjunction joins two words, phrases or sentences together.</p> <p>Examples: <i>but, so, and, because, or</i></p> <p>Sentence: Isaiah <i>or</i> she will call back.</p>
<h1>Preposition</h1>	<p>A preposition usually comes before a noun, pronoun or noun phrase. It joins the noun to some other part of the sentence.</p> <p>Examples: <i>on, in, by, with, under, through, at</i></p> <p>Sentence: We looked <i>under</i> the chair.</p>
<h1>Interjection</h1>	<p>An interjection is an unusual kind of word, because it often stands alone. Interjections are words, which express emotion or surprise, and they are usually followed by exclamation marks.</p> <p>Examples: <i>Ouch!, Hello!, Hurray!, Oh no!, Ha!</i></p> <p>Sentence: <i>Ouch!</i> That sting hurt!</p>

## Sample Adjectives

**Definition:** Adjectives are words which **MODIFY** (describe) nouns

**Example:** the tall girls, the vanilla cake, the green grass

able	curious	gracious	necessary	rough	tall
active	cut	gray	new	round	tame
adorable	cute	great	nice	sad	tan
alone	dark	green	normal	safe	tender
amusing	deep	grumpy	nosy	scary	testy
angry	delicate	handsome	nutritious	scrawny	thick
antique	delightful	happy	observant	second	thin
apart	dependent	hard	odd	secret	tight
artistic	different	healthy	old	separate	tired
asleep	dignified	high	open	serious	tough
athletic	diligent	hollow	opposite	sharp	tricky
attentive	dirty	honest	optimistic	short	true
awake	discerning	horrible	orange	shut	ugliest
bad	dizzy	ill	ordinary	silly	ugly
bashful	dry	important	outgoing	simple	vast
beautiful	dull	intelligent	outrageous	slow	waiting
bent	dumb	itchy	past	small	warm
better	early	jittery	patient	smart	wasteful
big	elastic	jolly	pink	smooth	watery
bitter	false	kind	poor	soft	wet
black	fat	last	positive	solid	white
blue	feeble	late	practical	special	wide
boiling	female	lazy	precious	spiritual	wide-eyed
bold	fixed	left	pretty	spotty	wise
bright	foolish	like	prickly	square	wonderful
broken	frail	living	purple	steady	wrong
brown	free	long	quaint	sticky	yellow
circular	fresh	loose	quick	stiff	young
clean	friendly	loud	quickest	stingy	yummy
clear	full	lovely	quiet	straight	zany
closed	funny	low	rainy	strange	
clumsy	future	magenta	rare	striped	
cold	gallant	male	ratty	strong	
cordially	general	many	ready	sudden	
courteous	gentle	mighty	red	sunny	
cracked	gifted	mixed	right	supportive	
crazy	gigantic	mushy	ripped	sweet	
creative	good	narrow	roasted	talented	
cruel	graceful	natural	robust	talkative	

# Sample Nouns

## What are Nouns?

Nouns are the building blocks to sentences. A clear command of nouns means the difference between weak writing and strong writing.

## Definitions of a Noun

1) A noun is a person, place, thing or idea.

Examples: hot dog, donut, baker, lifeguard, hunger

2) A common noun is a general term for a person, place, thing, or idea.

Examples: hot dog, donut, baker, lifeguard, hunger

3) A proper noun is a specific term for a person, place, or thing. They are often capitalized.

Example: Frank, Spring, Joe's Deli and Café, Sandy Beach

SAMPLE COMMON NOUNS	SAMPLE PROPER NOUNS
amusement park	Abraham Lincoln
backyard	Africa
bathroom	Apostle Paul
bedroom	artists
buildings	Beethoven
car	Bethlehem
castle	Breckenridge
church	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
closet	Christmas
countries	Colorado History Museum
doctor's office	December
farm	Edward Allen Poe
forest	Estes Park
frontroom	Genesis
frontyard	Hercules
grocery store	Highlights
kitchen	Joseph
library	Mary
mall	Mt. Everest
museums	Paula
music store	Popeye
ocean	Pride and Prejudice
parade	Proverbs
pirates	San Francisco
restaurant	Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk
sports	Spring
tools	Sunday
toys	The Daily Planet
veterinarian	The Gettysburg Address
zoo	The Great Cathedral
	World War 1

## Sample Adverbs

**Definition:** The part of speech that modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

accidentally	fast	noisily	slowly
afterwards	fatally	obediently	smoothly
always	fondly	obnoxiously	softly
angrily	foolishly	often	sometimes
anxiously	fortunately	only	speedily
awkwardly	frantically	perfectly	stealthily
badly	gently	politely	sternly
blindly	gladly	poorly	successfully
boastfully	gracefully	powerfully	suddenly
boldly	greedily	promptly	swiftly
bravely	happily	punctually	tenderly
brightly	hastily	quickly	tensely
busily	honestly	quietly	thoughtfully
calmly	hourly	rapidly	tightly
carefully	hungrily	rarely	tomorrow
carelessly	innocently	really	too
cautiously	inquisitively	recklessly	truthfully
cheerfully	irritably	regularly	very
clearly	joyously	reluctantly	victoriously
cruelly	justly	rightfully	vivaciously
daily	kindly	roughly	warmly
defiantly	lazily	rudely	weakly
deliberately	loosely	sadly	wearily
doubtfully	loudly	safely	
easily	madly	seldom	
elegantly	merrily	selfishly	
enormously	monthly	seriously	
enthusiastically	mortally	shakily	
equally	nearly	sharply	
eventually	neatly	shyly	
exactly	nervously	silently	
faithfully	never	sleepily	