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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) Time to 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!

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 16th, 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.

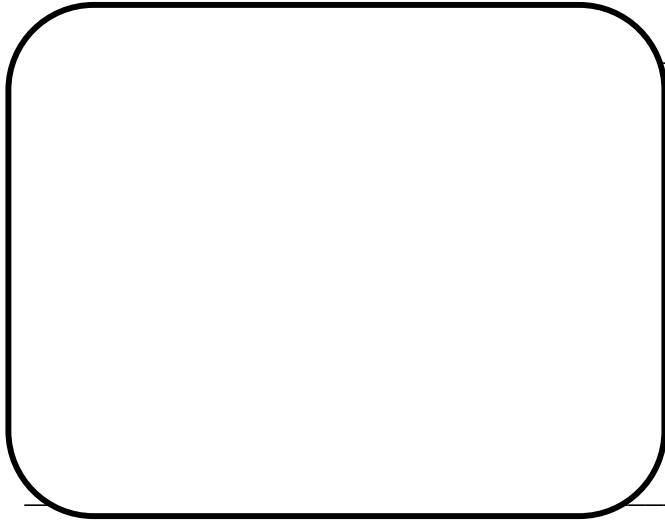
Sentences of Fact, Opinion, and Make Believe

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: Journaling

Date: _____

Prompt: Write about the best advice you have gotten from your Dad or Mom. What did you learn from it? Draw a picture to help illustrate your journal entry.



Handwriting lines for the journal entry, consisting of 18 horizontal lines extending from the right side of the drawing box.

Day 2: Activity - Simile

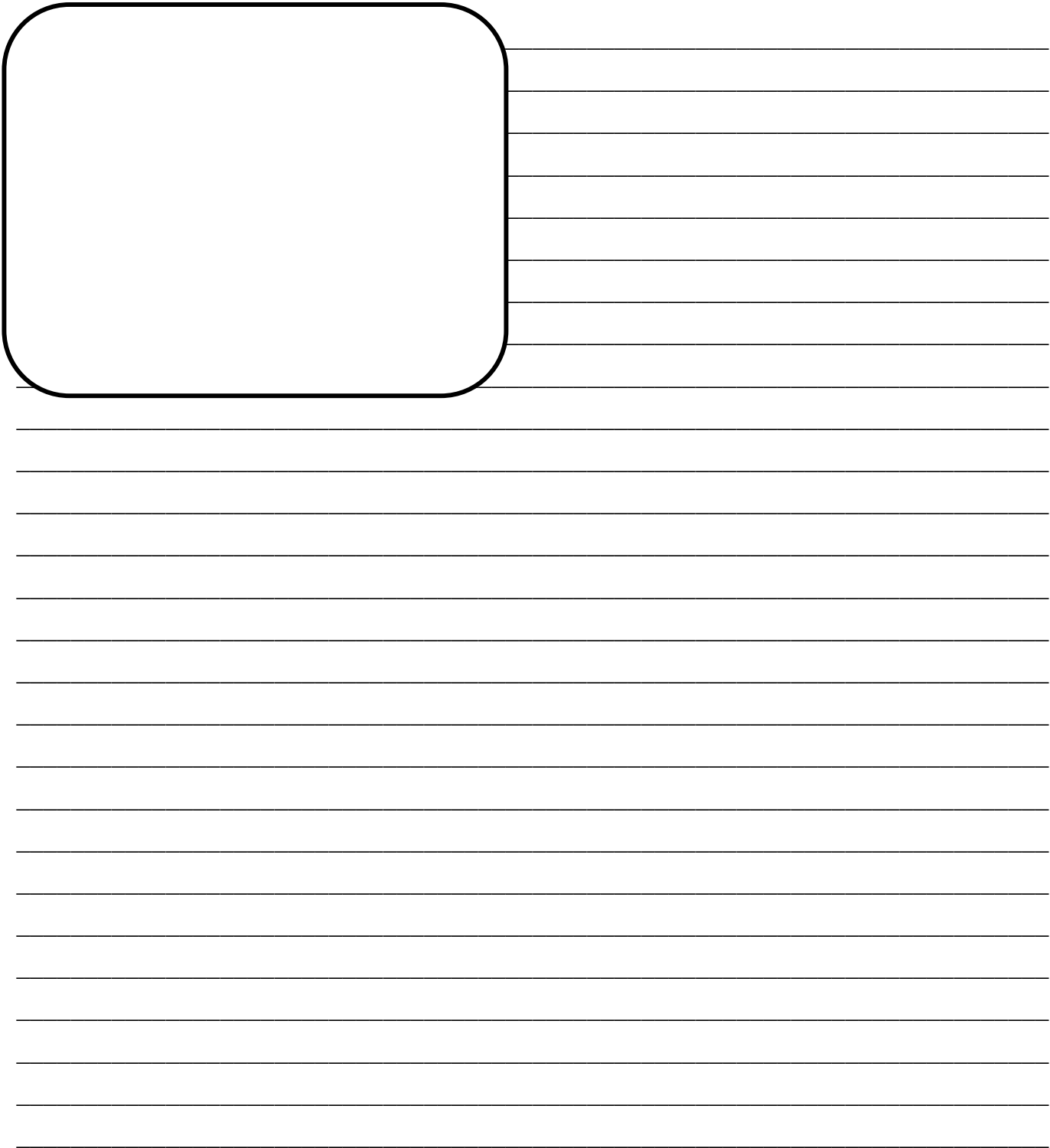
Directions: A simile is figure of speech that compares two different objects or ideas by using words like or as. Finish each of the sentences below using a simile. The first sentence has been done for you. Have fun!

Her face was	<u>as pale as the moon.</u>
My family is	
A bad day is	
A good day is	
Friendly is	
Funny is	
Laughing is	
Winter is	
Spring is	
Summer is	
Fall is	
Life is	
Happiness is	
Sadness is	
Friends are	
Parents are	
Sisters are	
Brothers are	
Rain is	
Wind is	
Love is	

Day 3: Journaling

Date: _____

Prompt: Why is it important to say you are sorry and ask forgiveness when you wronged someone? Tell about a time you asked for forgiveness. Draw a picture to help illustrate your journal entry.



The form consists of a large rounded rectangle on the left side, intended for drawing. To the right of this rectangle and extending across the rest of the page are horizontal lines for writing. There are 10 lines starting from the top right of the drawing area, and 20 more lines below them, for a total of 30 lines for text entry.

Day 3: Activity – Acrostic Poem

Directions: Acrostic poems begin with a word written down the page in capital letters. Look at the example below and then make your own acrostic poem. The words do not have to rhyme nor contain a certain amount of words or syllables.

Suntan lotion with an
Umbrella for mom and
My family eating chicken with
More treats
Everyday while we
Run at the beach

Keep the story going by incorporating each new bold letter. You give it a try. Think of a word you could use for your acrostic poem. Write the letters vertically on the lines below and finish the poem. You can even give the poem a title. Have fun!

Title: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Title: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Title: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____