

## The Write Stuff

10 Part Series

### Storytelling

with master storyteller Jeff Gere

### Writing Creatively

with author/illustrator Robin Rector Krupp

### Animal Nonfiction

with photojournalist Evelyn Gallardo

### Poetry Writing

with poet Kristine O'Connell George

### Biography Writing

with biographer Jeri Chase Ferris

### Mystery Writing

### Science Fiction Writing

### Historical Fiction Writing

### Fiction Writing

### Sports Writing



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*CRANIAL COMBUSTION*  
Presents

# Writing Creatively

with author / illustrator  
*Robin Rector Krupp*



**The WRITE STUFF**  
10 Part Series

**INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE**

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## INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

The purpose of “THE WRITE STUFF” video series is to motivate students to write by having published authors share with them their writing secrets. Each video is designed to teach a student the practical writing skills necessary to successfully create one specific genre of literature. The full series would give students experience writing in 10 different literary genres: fiction, animal nonfiction, historical fiction, sports writing, mystery, poetry, creative writing, biography, storytelling and science fiction. Authors explain their writing skills in easy-to-follow steps and reinforce each skill with examples from their own published works. In addition to learning new writing skills, students will enjoy meeting these colorful and critically acclaimed authors whose enthusiasm for writing is contagious!

An instructional guide is designed to complement each video, suggesting exercises to help aid teachers, parents, and students. These interactive exercises will further develop a student’s writing ability and enhance the joy of creativity.

The instructional guide provides:

- *Student friendly exercises!*
- *Fun-to-do follow-up activities!*
- *Easy-to-learn reinforcement lessons!*

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## REINFORCEMENT LESSONS:

Make a group “What do I...?” chart on the blackboard with all the students. Use the chart to come up with an idea, then write an opening line on the blackboard based on that idea. Have students volunteer to write sentences that follow that opening and create a classroom story.

Have students choose and cluster words from their spelling list to start writing a short story.

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*This video represents only a small part of the writing workshops that Robin Rector Krupp conducts at schools throughout the year.*

*For information about how you can schedule Robin to speak at your school*

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## EXERCISE #5: True or False:

- \_\_\_ Real authors never rewrite.
- \_\_\_ Writing every day in a journal is good practice.
- \_\_\_ Writing can be fun but it is also hard work.
- \_\_\_ Once you draw or write something, you should never look at it again.
- \_\_\_ You should always write at a desk on a computer.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

### Exercise Your Imagination

1) Tack several reproductions of art work by famous artists to the bulletin board. Have students select the work they like the best and then make up a story about the painting. Help the students get started by asking questions such as: Who is this picture about? How does this person feel? Why do they feel that way? What are they doing? Why? What kind of a family or friends does this person have? What do you think happened just before the moment in this picture? What happened after? Is this person talking to anyone that we can't see in the painting?

2) Gather together several different encyclopedic reference books about birds, flowers, animals, machinery, castles, airplanes, gardening, different countries or detailed state maps, etc. Let students browse through these books and find one that particularly interests them. Then have students create an imaginary world and use names from the reference books to help them create character names and places. Have them describe their imaginary world and the characters who inhabit it. The characters don't have to be human. They could even draw a map of their world labeling the different areas. Then have them imagine that something goes terribly wrong. What is it and what happens next?

## WRITING CREATIVELY With Robin Rector Krupp

The purpose of "Writing Creatively" is to help students free their creative spirits and have fun writing. Author/Illustrator Robin Rector Krupp shares with students the basic writing secrets that she successfully uses to come up with good ideas for books. How does she get ideas? Guess what? It's not work, it's fun with the "What do I?" chart! Got writer's block? The PCC (Pop, Choose, Cluster) Method should clear that right up. Have you ever started writing without words using a scribble drawing? Watch Robin create lively drawings that illustrate her writing techniques with pizzazz. Recommended as a great kick-off for any creative writing program. A super motivator for reluctant writers.

*Books written and/or illustrated by Robin Rector Krupp:*

- *The Rainbow and You (written by E.C. Krupp)*
- *Let's Go Traveling*
- *Let's Go Traveling in Mexico*
- *The Big Dipper and You (written by E.C. Krupp)*
- *The Moon and You (written by E.C. Krupp)*
- *The Comet and You (written by E.C. Krupp)*
- *Get Set to Wreck!*

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

**After viewing the program, students should be able to:**

- 1) Brainstorm good ideas for stories using the "What do I...?" chart and cross association.
- 2) Bring the creative ideas swirling around in their subconscious to the surface and actually begin writing them down using the Pop, Choose, Cluster Method.
- 3) Use the fun technique of Scribble Drawing as a springboard into creating characters, dialogue and story.
- 4) Choose a special place to write and practice writing there every day.
- 5) Realize that good writing requires rewriting and even published authors rewrite several times.

## **EXERCISE #1:**

### **How Do We Get Ideas?**

1. Write “What do I...?” at the top of a large sheet of paper.
2. Draw two bisecting lines dividing the paper into quarters.
3. Draw a heart representing “What do I like?”, a light bulb representing “What do I know?”, an open book representing “What do I want to learn about?”, and a worried face representing “What do I worry about?” in each quarter.
4. List the answers to the questions in each quarter.
5. Select one topic from each quarter and combine them to see what ideas you come up with for a story.
6. Try writing a story based on the combination of topics you’ve chosen.

## **EXERCISE #2:**

### **The Pop, Choose, Cluster Method**

1. POP: Start with a clean sheet of paper. Close your eyes for 10 seconds, then open them and for one minute, write down words that pop into your head.
2. CHOOSE : Out of your list of words, choose the ones that have the most creative “juice” and circle them.
3. CLUSTER: Write the words that you have chosen together in a cluster. Look at your cluster of words for a few seconds. Now start writing a sentence using the words in your cluster. If more thoughts occur to you, keep writing. See how far you can go.

## **EXERCISE #3: Scribble Drawing**

1. Start with a clean sheet of paper and a pencil. Close your eyes and think how you are feeling. Then draw one long continuous scribbly line on your paper.
2. Open your eyes. What do you see? Look at your drawing all different ways. Take a pen or magic marker and outline the shapes of the characters that you see.
3. Now dialogue with your characters and have them talk to each other. Ask them questions such as “Where do you live?”
4. Take notes; write down what the characters say.
5. Now, make up a short story using these characters.

## **EXERCISE #4: A Special Place**

Find a special place where you feel comfortable writing and go there with a piece of paper or a notebook. Sitting in your “special place,” describe where it is and then write a paragraph about why you chose it or why you feel comfortable writing there. Is it quiet or is it noisy? Is it outside or is it inside? Is it hidden? Is it where you can see everything and everyone can see you? Try to go there every day for at least five minutes and write something in a notebook. Have fun experimenting with the writing activities from this video. Don’t worry about spelling and punctuation. Just get the ideas down on paper. See if, little by little, you can fill up an entire notebook with your writing. Look through your writing notebook. Choose one story idea you like a lot, rewrite it with the correct spelling and punctuation and share it with a teacher, friend or family member.