

ADVENTURE STORY STUDIO



A CREATIVE WRITING
COMPANION PACK

This Creative Writing Workshop is a stand alone activity, but was also designed to be paired with Creature Curriculum's year-long study and fits within Octobers greater theme of Forests and Woodlands.

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GETTING STARTED: A MUST READ IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST MONTH IN THE ADVENTURE STORY STUDIO

The Adventure Story Studio pack is designed to guide your child through creating their own adventure story each month, encouraging creativity, enhancing writing skills, and building a love for storytelling. Here's just one suggestion on how to break up the process. But remember - let your writer lead! If they have moments of inspiration, don't hold them back!

WEEK 1: INTRODUCE THE STORY AND START BRAINSTORMING

- **Read the Adventure Story Aloud:** Start by reading this month's "CREATURE QUEST" aloud to your child. Make it an engaging experience by using expressive voices and pauses to build excitement.
- **Discuss the Story:** After reading, discuss the setting, the animals, the adventure, and any new vocabulary words. Ask your child what they liked about the story, what surprised them, or what they would have done differently. This discussion helps deepen their understanding and sparks their creativity.
- **Begin Brainstorming:** Right after the discussion, let your child start brainstorming their own adventure. Use the brainstorming sheets included in the pack to help them come up with ideas for their own story in the same habitat. Encourage them to think about what animals they might encounter, what challenges they might face, and how they would solve them.

WEEK 2: PLANNING AND DRAFTING

- **Develop the Story Plan:** Use the ideas from the brainstorming session to plan the adventure. For younger children, this might involve drawing pictures or using toys to act out scenes. Older children can outline their story, noting key events and characters.
- **First Draft:** Have your child start writing (or drawing) their adventure story. Remind them that this is just a first draft, and it's okay to make changes later. The goal is to get their ideas down on paper.

WEEK 3: CREATIVE WRITING CONCEPT AND REVISION

- **Introduce the Writing Concept:** As your child works on their draft, introduce this month's creative writing concept. Spend some time learning about it together, discussing how they can apply it to their story.
- **Revise the Story:** Use the included checklists to review the story together. Focus on the writing concept for the month (e.g., bringing action words to life) and guide them in making revisions. Encourage them to think about how their story can be improved or made more exciting.

WEEK 4: FINAL DRAFT AND SHARING

- **Finalize the Story:** After revising, it's time to create the final draft. Encourage your child to add any final touches, such as illustrations or a title page.
- **Share the Story:** Celebrate their hard work by sharing the story with family and friends. They can read it aloud, show off their illustrations, or even act out the adventure. Sharing their work helps build confidence and makes the experience more rewarding.

WRITING LEVELS: AN OVERVIEW

The goal of Adventure Story studio is to encourage children to become storytellers, whether through writing, illustrations, or hands-on creations. By the end of the year, each child will have a collection of adventures, personalized with their unique creative touch.

MONTHLY STORIES:

Each month, a new adventure story is offered as a Writers Workshop Companion Pack. And each month children create one chapter of their grand adventure! By the end of the year, they'll have a complete book of stories, whether written, illustrated, or built. *This 'book' becomes a beautiful way to see their growth as a writer and storyteller!*

YOUNG STORYTELLERS:

Storytelling through different mediums. This group might not be writing yet, but they are full of stories to share!

- Verbal Storytelling: Kids can narrate their stories aloud, either to a parent, a teacher, or even record themselves.
- Illustrations: Drawing pictures to represent their stories.
- Creative Builds: Using clay, blocks, or other materials to build scenes from their stories.
- Early Writing Skills: For those starting to write, they can label their illustrations with simple words or phrases.

RISING AUTHORS:

Expanding foundational writing skills with a focus on storytelling, creativity, and narrative structure.

- Storytelling: Children are developing their ability to write short, cohesive stories with clear structure, using sentences to express their ideas and build simple plots.
- Narrative Development: They are beginning to incorporate descriptive language, dialogue, and more detailed events to bring their stories to life.
- Guided Writing: Parents or teachers can help shape their narratives, encouraging them to think critically about how to expand their stories and enhance character development.
- Revising and Editing: As they refine their stories each month, children focus on improving clarity, sentence variety, and the overall flow of their narrative.

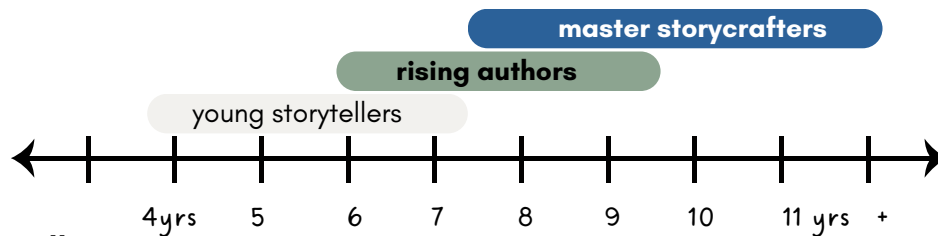
MASTER STORYCRAFTERS:

Refining more advanced storytelling skills, including character development, rich descriptions, and compelling dialogue.

- Creative Writing: These writers focus on developing well-rounded characters and crafting engaging plots that capture readers' interest.
- Narrative Structure: Attention is given to how the story flows from one scene to the next, with particular focus on pacing and building tension or excitement.
- Revising and Editing: Writers learn how to strengthen their stories through revision, using more detailed descriptions, refining dialogue, and ensuring the overall coherence of their narrative.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT LEVEL

This workshop is meant to foster a love for storytelling, so feel free to move between groups or adapt activities as needed to keep the experience fun and engaging. The goal is for your child to **enjoy** the creative process, not to get frustrated with the writing!



Young Storytellers

- **Who It's For:** This group is perfect for our youngest creators who are just beginning to explore the world of storytelling. If your child loves to tell stories aloud, draw pictures, or build scenes with their toys or clay, they'll thrive as a young Storyteller.
- **Foundational Skills:** At this stage, children are still developing their verbal communication skills, starting to express their ideas creatively, and learning to use art and play to share their stories. They may be recognizing letters and even sight words but are not yet focused on writing full sentences.
- **Activities:** Verbal storytelling, illustrating stories, building scenes with clay or blocks, and early writing (labeling pictures).

Rising Authors

- **Who It's For:** Rising Authors are young writers who are beginning to turn their imaginative ideas into written stories. If your child is starting to write short paragraphs and enjoys expressing themselves on paper, this group is a great fit.
- **Foundational Skills:** Children in this group are building their writing skills by learning to construct complete sentences and short paragraphs. They focus on using capital letters, punctuation, and basic grammar, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives, while starting to create simple narratives with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- **Activities:** Writing guided prompts, expanding vocabulary and descriptive language, revising and editing with attention to grammar and sentence structure, and crafting short, cohesive stories that emphasize clarity and creativity.

Master Storycrafters

- **Who It's For:** This group is ideal for older children who are ready to take their storytelling to the next level. If your child enjoys writing longer stories, developing characters, and using descriptive language, they'll find a home among the Master Storycrafters.
- **Foundational Skills:** These young writers are refining their narrative skills, focusing on elements like character development, point of view, dialogue, and plot structure. They are learning how to craft more engaging and polished stories, with attention to detail and coherence.
- **Activities:** Advanced writing techniques, revising and editing for style and clarity, exploring different narrative perspectives, and creating well-rounded characters and plots.

MATERIAL LIST

Below you'll find a list of recommended materials to have in order to complete this Writers Workshop . This list includes basic supplies as well as optional tools that can enhance the creative process, allowing flexibility depending on each child's preferences.

CREATIVE WRITING PROCESS MATERIALS

- **Paper:** Lined paper, plain paper, or story template sheets. (provided)
- **Pencils:** Regular pencils, colored pencils for added creativity.
- **Erasers:** To help with editing and revising.
- **Crayons/Markers:** For illustrations, especially for younger children.
- **Art Supplies:** for learners who want to bring the story to life.
- **Highlighters:** To mark important ideas or sections during revisions.
- **Stapler/Binders:** To create booklets or bind the final stories.
- **Revision Checklists:** To revise their rough drafts (provided)
- **Story Planning Sheets:** Templates for brainstorming and outlining stories (provided)



PARENT/EDUCATOR **LESSON** **PLANS**

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

LESSON: YOUNG STORYTELLERS

LESSON: RISING AUTHORS

LESSON: MASTER STORYCRAFTERS

VOCABULARY

Whittling

Sentence: "Sawyer sat on a fallen log, carefully whittling a stick with his pocket knife."

Definition: To carve or shape wood by cutting small slices from it.

Absorbed

Sentence: "Brooks was crouched down, totally absorbed in watching a line of ants march across the forest floor."

Definition: Deeply interested or involved in something.

Fascinated

Sentence: "Brooks nodded, fascinated, but his attention quickly shifted when he spotted something else."

Definition: Extremely interested in something, to the point of paying full attention.

Tracks

Sentence: "There were tracks in the soft earth."

Definition: Marks left by an animal's feet or paws on the ground.

Gnawed

Sentence: "Several trunks had been gnawed at the base."

Definition: To chew on something repeatedly, especially wood.

Lodge

Sentence: "They spotted a beaver lodge on the other side of the pond."

Definition: A beaver's home, made of sticks and mud, usually in a pond.

Admiring

Sentence: "Sawyer nodded, admiring the structure."

Definition: Looking at something with appreciation or respect.

Squelch

Sentence: "Brooks came to an abrupt stop—squelch!"

Definition: A soft, sucking sound made when walking on something wet and muddy.

Underbrush

Sentence: "Towering antlers emerged from the underbrush."

Definition: Low-growing trees, bushes, and plants that grow beneath taller trees in a forest.

Crouched

Sentence: "The boys stayed crouched, hearts still pounding, as they watched the giant animal."

Definition: Bending your knees and lowering your body to stay close to the ground.

Herbivores

Sentence: "No, moose are herbivores. They only eat plants, not animals."

Definition: Animals that only eat plants.

Predators

Sentence: "The pond keeps their lodge safe from predators."

Definition: Animals that hunt and eat other animals for food.

Dense

Sentence: "The forest seemed endless, and the morning light was getting brighter, making it harder to tell which way they had come in the dense woods."

Definition: Thick with trees or plants, making it difficult to see through or travel.

GLANCE AT THIS MONTH'S CONCEPTS

1. YOUNG STORYTELLERS: CREATING CHARACTERS THROUGH PLAY

Description: This month, the youngest writers will focus on bringing characters to life through their stories. Whether through drawings, clay figures, or verbal storytelling, they'll begin to create characters with distinct personalities, likes, and dislikes. The emphasis is on having fun while developing the heroes of their adventures.

How They'll Learn: Young Storytellers will be encouraged to design their characters visually or verbally. They can draw or craft characters out of clay and then share stories about what their characters like to do, what they're afraid of, and what makes them unique. For those who are ready, they can label their character's names or even write a few words describing their traits. The goal is to make character creation fun and intuitive, sparking their imagination without worrying about structured writing.

2. RISING AUTHORS: BUILDING DYNAMIC CHARACTERS

Description: Rising Authors will take a deeper dive into character creation this month, learning how to develop characters that feel real and exciting. They'll work on creating characters with distinct personalities and motivations, which will help drive the plot of their adventure story.

How They'll Learn: As Rising Authors draft their next chapter, they'll focus on creating characters with depth by exploring who their characters are, what they want, and how they behave in different situations. They'll also practice writing dialogue that shows their character's personality. Activities may include character profile worksheets, conversations between characters, and exploring how characters react to problems. This month's emphasis is on helping young writers create characters that leap off the page.

3. MASTER STORYCRAFTERS: MASTERING CHARACTER ARCS

Description: Master Storycrafters will focus on the development of complex characters who experience growth and change throughout their adventure. They'll learn how to write compelling character arcs, where their characters face challenges, learn from mistakes, and grow by the end of the story.

How They'll Learn: This month, students will work on creating full character arcs. They'll start by plotting how their characters change over the course of their story or chapter. Writing exercises might include crafting dialogue that reveals inner conflict, planning out moments that challenge their characters, and showing how these moments lead to growth. Master Storycrafters will also analyze examples of character development from books and movies, exploring how well-crafted characters enhance the depth and impact of a story.

LESSON PLAN: YOUNG STORYTELLERS

creating characters through play

This month, the youngest writers will focus on bringing characters to life through their stories. Whether through drawings, clay figures, or verbal storytelling, they'll begin to create characters with distinct personalities, likes, and dislikes. The emphasis is on having fun while developing the heroes of their adventures.

STEP 1: INTRODUCE STORYTELLING

- **Read the Adventure Story Aloud:** Begin by reading the included adventure story to your child. Engage them with expressive voices, asking them to imagine what it would be like to be part of the adventure.
- **Discuss the Story:** After reading, talk with your child about the characters, the setting, and what happened in the story. Ask them what they liked, what surprised them, and how they might tell the story differently. Use the conversation cards to dive deeper into what they enjoyed or what they'd change about the characters.
- **Introduce Storytelling Methods:** Explain that there are many ways to tell a story—through talking, drawing, or even building with toys. Let your child choose how they'd like to start telling their own adventure story.

STEP 2: START CREATING THE STORY – CHOOSE THE APPROACH

- **Verbal Storytelling:** Encourage your child to start their story by telling it out loud. Prompt them with questions to help guide the flow of their tale, such as "What happens next?" or "Who are the characters in your story?"
- **Illustrations and Creative Builds:** If your child prefers to draw or build, provide them with materials like paper, crayons, clay, or blocks. Let them create scenes from their story, representing the beginning, middle, and end of their adventure.
- **Early Writing:** For children beginning to explore writing, suggest they label their drawings or write simple words or short sentences related to their story. They can also try writing their name or the names of the characters.

STEP 3: EXPANDING THE STORY

- **Activity Story Box:** Gather materials like small toys, clay, or additional drawing supplies. Let your child use these to expand on their story, adding new scenes or details. Encourage them to tell you about their adventure as they create it.
- **Ask Questions:** Use the included discussion points to help your child think more deeply about their story. Ask them questions about their characters, what's happening in the story, and where the story takes place. This will help them add more depth to their storytelling and expand their imagination.

STEP 4: FINALIZING AND SHARING

- **Review and Finalize:** Spend some time reviewing your child's story together. Whether they've told it verbally, through pictures, or by building scenes, ask them if they'd like to add any final touches or details.
- **Sharing the Story:** Celebrate their creativity by sharing the story with family or friends. Your child can tell their story aloud, show off their drawings or builds, or even act out parts of the adventure. Sharing their work helps boost confidence and pride in their storytelling abilities.

conversation cards

YOUNG STORYTELLERS:

Who is the hero
in your story?

What happens
first in your
story?

Where does your
story take place?

What problem
does the hero
face?

How does the
hero solve the
problem?

Does anyone help
the hero in your
story?

What sounds do
you hear in your
story?

What happens at
the end of your
story?

If you could add
one more thing
to your story,
what would it
be?

additional conversation cards

What is the
biggest challenge
the main
character faces?

Does your story
have a funny
part?

Who is the main
character's best
friend in the
story?

What does your
character learn
by the end of the
adventure?

Where does your
character go
after the
adventure is
over?

If your character
could talk to an
animal, what
would they say?

What would your
character do if
they found a
hidden treasure?

What kind of
weather is
happening in your
story?

Did anything
surprise your
character?

LESSON PLAN: RISING AUTHORS

character development

Rising Authors will take a deeper dive into character creation this month, learning how to develop characters that feel real and exciting. They'll work on creating characters with distinct personalities and motivations, which will help drive the plot of their adventure story.

STEP 1: INTRODUCING CHARACTERS

- **Read the Adventure Story Aloud:** Begin by reading the adventure story and paying attention to how the characters are introduced and how they change through the story.
- **Discuss the Characters:** After reading, ask your child what they noticed about the characters. What are the characters' personalities? What are their goals? This will set the foundation for creating well-rounded characters.

STEP 2: DEVELOPING CHARACTERS

- **Character Brainstorming:** Help your child brainstorm the main character for their story. Ask them to think about their character's personality—what makes them brave, kind, or adventurous? Use the brainstorming sheets to help organize these thoughts.
- **Planning the Character's Motivations and Goals:** Encourage your child to think about what their character wants to achieve in the adventure. What motivates their character? Use the planning sheets to note down the character's goal, personality traits, and motivations.

STEP 3: DRAFTING AND CHARACTER GROWTH

- **First Draft Writing:** Have your child write the first draft of their story, focusing on their character's actions, feelings, and motivations. Encourage them to think about how their character's personality drives the story forward.
- **Revision Checklist:** Use the included checklist to help your child review their character's development. Are the character's motivations clear? Does the character's personality shine through the story?

STEP 4: FINALIZING AND SHARING

- **Final Draft Creation:** Guide your child through final revisions, focusing on character development.
- **Sharing the Story:** Encourage your child to share their story with family and friends, highlighting the character they've developed.

*Keep your goal for the month in mind. If time doesn't allow for a final draft, think about whether that's a priority. Is your focus on perfecting the final piece, or is it more about enjoying the writing process and building storytelling skills? Both are equally valuable, but sometimes it's better to focus on just one. The schedule above is simply a suggestion, not knowing how much time you have. Set a pace that feels right for you and your student, and remember, it's okay if you don't get through every step. What matters most is the learning and growth along the way.

LESSON PLAN: MASTER STORYCRAFTERS

Building complex characters

Master Storycrafters will focus on the development of complex characters who experience growth and change throughout their adventure. They'll learn how to write compelling character arcs, where their characters face challenges, learn from mistakes, and grow by the end of the story.

STEP 1: INTRODUCING CHARACTER DEPTH

- **Read the Adventure Story Aloud:** Begin by reading the adventure story together, paying close attention to the characters. Discuss how the characters are introduced and what makes them feel complex—what are their goals, fears, and internal struggles?
- **Discuss Character Complexity:** After reading, talk about how the main characters might be dealing with inner conflicts or big goals. What makes them interesting or relatable?

STEP 2: DEVELOPING COMPLEX CHARACTERS

- **Brainstorming Session:** Help your child brainstorm a complex main character for their chapter. Encourage them to think about not just what their character looks like or does, but what their character wants or fears. Does their character have a challenge they're trying to overcome?
- **Planning the Character's Goals and Challenges:** Use the planning sheets to map out what drives the character. What do they want to achieve in this adventure? Are there any fears or obstacles they must overcome?

STEP 3: DRAFTING THE CHAPTER

- **First Draft Writing:** Have your child write their chapter, focusing on their character's internal goals or conflicts. Even if the character doesn't change completely, encourage your child to show how the character reacts to challenges or experiences.
- **Character Depth Revision:** Use the revision checklist to review the draft, ensuring that the character feels complex and that their motivations and internal struggles are clear.

STEP 4: FINALIZING AND SHARING

- **Final Draft Revisions:** Help your child revise their chapter, making sure their character's goals and challenges are well-developed.
- **Sharing the Story:** Encourage your child to share their chapter with family or friends, highlighting the depth and motivations of their character.