

# Speciality Items



## **1. Verbal-Linguistic**

*ABC Story:* Choose a topic to write about. Example: Vacations. Brainstorm words (A-Z) that reflect important aspects of your topic. Write a story about your topic using each of the words from your A-Z list.

## **2. Verbal-Linguistic**

*Cubing:* Use the cube pattern to create a description of a chosen topic in six different ways. On each side of the cube, describe your topic in a different way:

1. Description (What is it like?)
2. Comparison (What is it similar to or different from?)
3. Association (What does it make you think of?)
4. Analysis (How is it made or what is it composed of?)
5. Application (What can you do with it or how is it used?)
6. Argument (Argue for or against it)

## **3. Verbal-Linguistic**

*How To Book:* Choose a topic (examples: how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, how to ride a bike, how to make a puppet, etc.). Write a short book on “how to do or make” your chosen topic.

## **4. Verbal-Linguistic**

*Rave Reviews:* Pretend that you are a restaurant critic for a local newspaper. Write a review of your favorite restaurant as a column for a newspaper. Be sure to include descriptions of the food, the service and how the looks of the restaurant.

## **5. Verbal-Linguistic**

*What's in a Word:* Check out the word of the day from the New York Times at <http://nytimes.com/learning/students/wordofday/index.html>. Study the definition and use of this word and write a story using the word at least once in your story.

## **6. Verbal-Linguistic**

*It Takes Two:* Write a story using only two syllable words. Hint: Write a story first, then change the words that are NOT two syllables to new words with two syllables. You will probably have to use a thesaurus to find words that have the same or similar meanings.

## **7. Verbal-Linguistic**

*The Group:* Choose one of the following groups of words to create a story. Make sure you use each word in the group in your story. Illustrate your final edition.

Group #1: principal, paper, teacher, books, files, playground, locker

Group #2: ice cream, humid, flowers, heat, lazy, picnic, beach

Group #3: trust, friend, happy, share, caring, listener, buddy

## **8. Verbal-Linguistic**

*Without You:* Write about the Fourth of July without using any of the following words: America or American, United States, sparklers, fireworks, picnic, parade, July.

## **9. Verbal-Linguistic**

*Quotation, Quotation, Quotation:* Write a story using only dialogue. Narratives and descriptions cannot be included.



# Speciality Items



## **1. Logical Mathematical**

*Supermarket Madness:* Imagine a person in a supermarket purchasing everything that begins with the letters of your first and last names. For example, if your name was John Doe, you would make a list of all things found in a supermarket that begin with the letters "J" and "D." Imagine the person who would buy the items you have listed. Describe this person's physical appearance, their occupation, and what they would do for fun. Why did the list of items make you think that the person would be described like this?

## **2. Logical Mathematical**

*New View:* Write a new version of Cinderella from a different point of view. Either from the point of view of:  
The prince  
An ugly stepsister  
The stepmother  
The fairy godmother

## **3. Logical Mathematical**

*Common Threads:* Think about your favorite book and your favorite character from that book. Make two lists. One will be your own character traits and the other will be traits of the character you choose. Now, write a story about how you are alike and different. Add a paragraph about why you think you admire this character so much.

## **4. Logical Mathematical**

*Building a Story:* Using Legos or blocks, use your creative imagination and build something. It can be anything!! Write a story about what you have built.

## **5. Logical Mathematical**

*Missing Numbers:* Write a story about the adventures of the missing numbers. Be sure to include an integer, a fraction, a percent and a decimal in your story.

## **6. Logical Mathematical**

*Dear Dr. Decimal:* Write an advise column for a newspaper where someone writes the following:  
Dear Dr. Decimal,  
I have always had trouble learning mathematics in school. Can you please give me some advice on how I can learn better? We have just started a unit on fractions.  
HELP!  
Signed,  
Lost in Numberland

## **7. Logical Mathematical**

*Graphing a Story:* Create a graph of something. It could be a line graph, a circle graph or a bar graph. Write a story to match the graph.

## **8. Logical Mathematical**

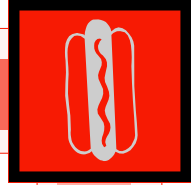
*It's a Secret:* Invent a new "secret" or "code" language. Write directions on how to decipher the "code language" so that someone else will be "in" on your secret language.

## **9. Logical Mathematical**

*It Takes Two:* Write a story that contains as many things as possible that come in pairs (examples: 2 ears, 2 seats on a see saw, 2 wings on a plane, 2 pieces of bread on a sandwich, etc.). Each time you mention a "pair," highlight it in a different color.



# Speciality Items



<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Close Your Eyes and See:</i> Think about the importance of your sense of sight. Have someone blindfold you. Write a short story and illustrate it while blindfolded. After looking at your story and illustration when your blindfold is removed, write a reflection about this experience.</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>What's in the Bag:</i> Have a friend put 5-7 items in a paper bag. Without looking, feel the items that are in the bag for two minutes. Visualize these items and describe them in as you write a story called What's In the Bag.</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Fruity Fantasy:</i> Find a piece of fruit and make it come alive by disguising it. You may dress it up, add facial features and accessories, but you may not damage it or cut it. Write a fruity fantasy by: describing what your fantasy fruit now looks like, writing about a day in the life of this fantasy fruit, and having the fantasy fruit persuade a pageant judge why it should win a contest for most handsome or most beautiful fruit!</p>
<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Jazzy Jacket:</i> Design the book jacket cover for a story you have written. Include the summary of your story that will be found on the inside flap of your book jacket.</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>It's in the Type:</i> Compare at least 6 different typefaces. Examples: <b>BROADWAY</b>, <b>COPPERPLATE</b>, <i>Lucinda Handwriting</i>, <b>STENCIL</b>, etc. Write about the "personalities" of each of these typefaces.</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Colorful:</i> Choose a color. Make a list of all of the things you can think of that are that color. Write a story where everything in the story revolves around that color (example: My chosen color is YELLOW. My story will revolve around Big Bird, bananas, ducks, the sun, raincoats, daffodils, cheese, etc.). Illustrate your story in that color.</p>
<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Bring 5 Alive:</i> Cut out 5 pictures of people from a magazine or newspaper. Write a story featuring these people as the main characters.</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Architectural Power:</i> Look at photographs of Greek temples and medieval cathedrals. Write a story about what makes the architecture of these buildings so powerful!</p>	<p><b>Visual Spatial</b>  <i>Write as a Knight:</i> During the Middle Ages, knights used a coat of arms to identify themselves. A coat of arms can have several parts, including a shield, a crest, a motto, and animals supporting the shield. The blazon was a description of the coat of arms in words, using a special vocabulary. Research "heraldry" on the Internet. Learn about the colors, and the things (called "charges") on a coat of arms. Design your coat of arms and describe it. Make sure you include a story about the things found on your personal coat of arms.</p>



# Speciality Items



## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Give Them A Hand:* In the United States, when people say “hello” and “good-bye” they often wave their hand. Adults often shake hands when saying “hello” and “good-bye.” Research what people from other cultures do with their hands when they say “hello” and “good-bye.” Write a short essay about your findings and also show the class how other cultures say “hello” and “goodbye.”

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*At the Theater:* Find a picture book story that you enjoy. Rewrite this story in the form of a play or reader’s theater. Be sure to include the gestures and movements that should be included for characters in the play or reader’s theater.

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*In His or Her Shoes:* Pretend you are a famous sports figure for a day. Write a story about a day in the life of this person from his or her point of view. If you are happy with your story, send it to your sports hero!

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Who Panics?:* Write a story about this situation: A professional athlete, an artist, and a personal trainer are found in a zoo with a cage door open and an animal missing. One of the three panics. Write a story about which person panics and why?

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Knock Your Socks Off:* Create a puppet out of a sock, then write a story that your puppet could tell. After you have written your story, have your sock puppet read the story for your class.

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Invention Convention:* Using recycled materials, invent something new. Name your invention, think of what it is used for, and write a story about it.

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*A Grand Game:* Create a new board game. Invent and write the rules for the game. Design the game board. Gather a group of students together to play the game.

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Hot Diggity Dog:* Follow directions for making a “Hot Dog Book” on the following web site: <http://www.makingbooks.com/hotdog.html> Use your “Hot Dog Book” to write and illustrate a story about making the world a better place.

## **Bodily Kinesthetic**

*Friendship Bio:* Come up with 5 or 6 great interview questions and interview one of your classmates. Examples: *What would you like to be doing in 5 years? What do you fear most?* Based on the interview information, write a short biography of your classmate.



# Speciality Items



## **Musical**

*Children's Music:* Use the following website: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/music.htm#index>. Go to the section of this website called Children's Songs. Using the tune from a familiar children's song, write new words using a chosen topic. Sing your song as the computer accompanies you.

## **Musical**

*I Listen, I Think:* Listen to a song by a singer who you do not know. Write a story about that singer. What does the singer look like? What kind of personality does the singer have? In your story, pretend that you are interviewing the singer. What would you ask him or her? When you finish writing your story, find a picture of the singer (use the internet). Compare your mental image to the picture of the singer.

## **Musical**

*Connections:* Find a poem and a song that you think have a connection. Example: "I Did It My Way" (song) and "The Road Not Taken" (poem). Write a short essay comparing the similarities and differences between the song and the poem.

## **Musical**

*Background Music:* Find a piece of music you think would make good background music for a television advertisement. Write an advertisement for one of your favorite products. Perform the advertisement for the class with the music playing in the background.

## **Musical**

*Musician Memoirs:* Who is your favorite musician? Your least favorite musician? Pretend that you are interviewing both for the school newspaper. What would you ask each of the musicians? How would they respond to our questions? How are their remarks the same and/or different? Write your newspaper column.

## **Musical**

*Classical Literature:* Listen to a piece of classical music that has no lyrics. Write lyrics that could be sung to this music. Make sure the lyrics tell a sad or happy story.

## **Musical**

*Remember This:* Song are fun and help us remember things. Think about something that is difficult for students to remember (examples: the names of all of the presidents, difficult times tables, the elements on the periodic table, etc.). Write a fun song to help your fellow classmates remember something. For the background music, use a familiar tune or create your own.

## **Musical**

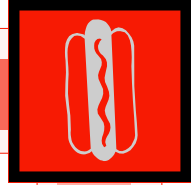
*Hear This:* Make a list of "hard sounds" and "soft sounds" found in nature. Examples: "Hard sound" - clap of thunder "Soft sound" - rustling of leaves  
  
Use your lists of sounds to imagine a story taking place in the woods. Write and illustrate your story.

## **Musical**

*New Musical Sounds:* Using recycled materials such as straws, tongue depressors, bottles, rubber bands, etc., invent a new musical instrument. Name your new instrument. You must be able to play a song on your invention. Write a story about entering your new instrument in a musical contest. What was the contest? Tell about the events that happened during the contest and how it ended.



# Speciality Items



<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Artwork and Stories:</i> Find wildlife artwork on the following website: <a href="http://wildlifeart.org">http://wildlifeart.org</a>. After entering the site, go to “Artists and Art.” Choose an artist and look at his or her paintings. Use the artwork as an inspiration for a story. Print the picture that you used to inspire your story.</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Picture This:</i> Using a digital camera, take at least 10 close up pictures of things in nature (example: a special tree, a leaf, an insect, a flower, etc.). Write a story including your nature objects within your story. Use the pictures you took to illustrate your story.</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Brand New:</i> Invent a new plant and give it a name. Draw a picture of this plant. Think about the following: Where does this plant grow the best? What does it need to help it grow? Does this plant produce any type of crop? How do people use this plant in everyday life? What insects are enemies of this plant? What can be done to make sure this plant continues to grow and thrive in nature? Write a story about your new plant answering these questions in your story.</p>
<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>My Metamorphosis:</i> What if you could change in the way that a caterpillar changes to a butterfly, a tadpole changes to a frog, or a nymph changes to a dragonfly? How would you change? Write a story about this change and how your life is now the same or different.</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Attack of the Giant Butterflies:</i> Write a newspaper feature article with this headline: “Giant Butterflies Invade Farm Field in Iowa.”</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Invent a Pet:</i> Invent a new pet using a variety of noses, ears, eyes, claws, teeth, scales, tails, antennae, tongues, and bodies from various “real” animals. Name this new pet and write a story about why this is the best pet anyone could have.</p>
<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Crazy Critics:</i> Pretend that reptiles or amphibians are food critics for the local newspaper. Think about an imaginary restaurant that would appeal to a reptile or amphibian. What is the name of the restaurant? Where is it located? What does it look like? What is on the menu? Why would reptiles or amphibians like to go to this restaurant? Write a review for this restaurant.</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Neighborhood of the Future:</i> Think about your favorite field or forest. Draw a rough sketch of this area and find out the names of plants that grow there and animals that live there. Write a story about how you would design an ideal neighborhood of the future for this area and think about how humans would live in harmony with the plants and animals.</p>	<p><b><u>Naturalist</u></b>  <i>Pop-Up Animal Story:</i> Make an animal mouth pop-up by following the directions on this web site: <a href="http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html">http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html</a> Write a story about the life and times of this animal.</p>

