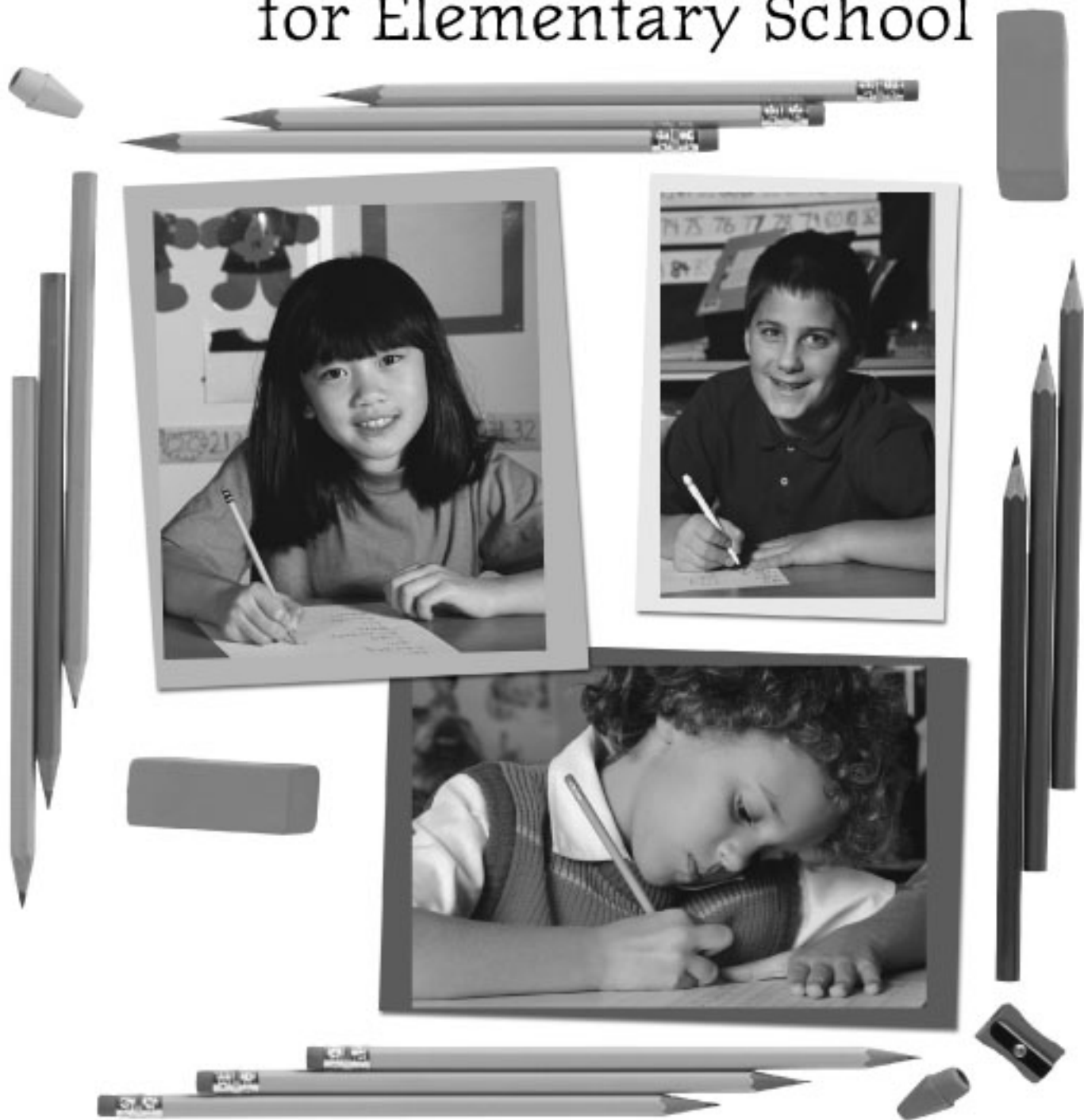


100 Writing Starters for Elementary School



Contents

To the Teacher v

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. In the Future | 26. A Little More Candy |
| 2. Where to Go? | 27. A Bad Sport |
| 3. A New Cartoon | 28. Before Electricity |
| 4. I Wish | 29. No More Hiccups |
| 5. Where the Animals Live | 30. Building a Tree House |
| 6. When I Grow Up | 31. Life as a Cowboy |
| 7. Off to the Beach | 32. The Principal's Office |
| 8. I'm a Superhero | 33. Around the World |
| 9. The Class Play | 34. I'm the Character |
| 10. Making Money | 35. Running Away |
| 11. A New Pet | 36. Trouble with Reading |
| 12. Birthday Party | 37. Getting Glasses |
| 13. Helping with Dinner | 38. Describing Myself |
| 14. Sleepover Party | 39. Skipping a Grade |
| 15. Summer Camp | 40. Strangers |
| 16. Should I Tell? | 41. Where's the Sitter? |
| 17. Feeling Guilty | 42. Living on the Moon |
| 18. My Hero | 43. My Pen Pal |
| 19. Trick or Treat | 44. Cheating on Homework |
| 20. Finishing the Story | 45. A New Town |
| 21. Working Together | 46. Losing a Pet |
| 22. Help from a Teacher | 47. Under the Leaves |
| 23. The Bully | 48. Search for Treasure? |
| 24. It Can't Be Hers | 49. "I'm Not Fat." |
| 25. No Way Home | 50. Sandcastle Building |

51. Accident in the Woods
52. I Would've Met . . .
53. The Worst Chore
54. Fire Safety
55. Searching for Gifts
56. Designing a Park
57. A Tribute to the Principal
58. Snow Day
59. Where's the Painting?
60. A Future Musician
61. I Dare You
62. Lunch Money
63. A Tough Adjustment
64. I'm Thankful for . . .
65. Tattling on My Hero?
66. My Own Video Game
67. My Favorite Day
68. Away from Home
69. Dinosaurs
70. Read It or Watch It?
71. My Favorite Sport
72. The Best Movie
73. Taking the Blame
74. Don't Tell Dad
75. Don't Make Fun
76. Seasons
77. At the Ballgame
78. Forgotten Lines
79. Pool Party
80. The Alien's Secret
81. Gum in My Hair
82. Difficulty Reading
83. The Most Beautiful Things
84. The Cave
85. Making a Gift
86. A Nickname
87. The Oldest Toy
88. A House in the Future
89. Worst Food
90. The Circus
91. A New Candy
92. A New Car
93. Stuck on an Island
94. April Fools
95. Crime Fighters
96. Under the Sea
97. Playing Inside
98. A Ghost Story
99. Life on a Cloud
100. My Own Planet

To the Teacher

These writing-starter exercises are designed to be used for practice in paragraph writing and in simple expository writing.

Students write best if they write from their own experiences, and these writing starters provide that opportunity. Each page has the beginning of a paragraph on a subject with which most elementary-school students will be familiar.

Students also write well if they are first guided through a very structured exercise. Here, they are given a beginning. They must provide a continuation and an ending. Later, they can begin as well as complete their own paragraphs and short compositions.

The beginning of the paragraph on each page is about four or five sentences long. The beginning of the next sentence is then given. Students are to complete the sentence and continue writing a cohesive paragraph.

It would be best to reproduce a page for each student and allow him or her to write directly on the reproduced copy. This form of presentation should help students go right into writing a continuation that "flows" from what they are given. You should expect at least five full sentences.

Use these exercises wherever and whenever they fit into your own writing lessons.

Variations

1. Give copies of the same page to all members of the class. After they write, have a number of students read their papers aloud. Point out the variety of responses created by different authors.
2. Give copies of different pages to all members of the class. After they write, have a number of students read their papers aloud. Discuss each paper in terms of logical continuation and ending, as well as clarity.
3. Have copies of different pages available to students to use for "extra credit" when they have finished with other class assignments. Students may select the ones they want to do from your stack of reproduced copies. (These exercises are a good length for moments that need to be filled; they also can be done on an individual basis, and there is a wide choice of topics.)
4. Use these exercises as class "openers." They can be done in just a few minutes, so they can be used as an opening exercise to focus students' attention and to get them quiet and working.

