



W R I T E



Spring

-Brings Renewal!

renewal:

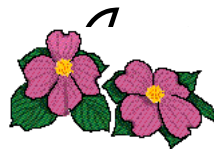
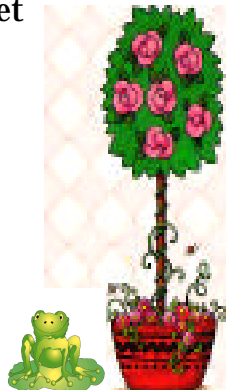
noun ~**renovation**, restoration, rebirth, refurbishment, renaissance, repair; ~**return**, reappearance, comeback, improvement, rally, recovery, resurrection, revival.

Spring is one of those seasons that we look forward to for so many reasons. As Minnesotans, winter has taken it's toll on our minds and souls. One more day of snow or cold may just as likely bring a growl or a scream, as a smile. Thoughts of cozy winter nights around the fire, curling up with a blanket, book, and cup of hot chocolate just don't hold the same appeal as it did in November. Now we are thinking of what we can plant, how we can't wait to open every window in the house to let the breezes flow through, and oh, how we've missed the sounds of the birds!

It's a time to begin anew. New plants, fresh paint, young animals, youthful ideas, physical activity that won't freeze any limbs--all signs of Spring!

As we begin anew, begin to refresh, let us remember the lessons of the past. As we encourage students to begin and continue writing do not focus only on the mechanics of writing. Let them explore their ideas, share their feelings and opinions, let them tell their story.

Although correct spelling, good sentence structure, and proper grammar are all important parts of polished writing, it is the initial thought or idea that is truly important, for without them there would be no writing.



Morrow Lindbergh

1906-2001



'I must write it all out, at any cost. Writing is thinking. It is more than living, for it is being conscious of living.' (from 'Locked Rooms and Open Doors')

Anne's Thoughts About Spring

*April, Northampton, after [Easter] vacation, 1928-

"I am trying to think of some gesture -- some gesture delicate, beautiful, graceful, and slight as a sigh or breath, some gesture to describe or compare with the exquisite breath-taking grace of these trailing elm branches resting so gently on the air."



May 1st

"It is so good to see the sky again blue ... Now that blue -- I am walking in it! Blue and white clouds. It is too good to believe -- I have to keep looking at it from sheer joy. I feel as though I were wearing it.

A glorious storm -- great curves of rain, sweeps, people running. The hard beat of it and those heart-lifting breaths of fresh cool when it stops a little.

A rainbow against a black sky ... The sun gleaming on that white birch in Mr. Schintz's garden. Behind the white birch the rainbow and the blue hills and black sky.

The grass a living, moving green, so intensely green."



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SPRING~Different Journal Types~

~**Class journal:** Students take turns writing about shared experiences, their relationship with one another, class activities, field trips, celebrations-- be sure to include the **teacher** in taking their turn!

~**Family Journal:** Turn journaling into a family activity (as a weekly assignment to be done with their families). After designing an attractive journal, have students take the journal home: the family can take turns writing about shared experiences, their relationships with one another, and plans for the future.

~**Creative journal:** Let your students release their inner artist. A journal can be a sketchbook, a photo album, or just a place to jot down ideas for projects.

~**Scrapbook:** Cut/paste pictures and articles from newspapers and magazines. You could even have the kids write comments in response.



~**Internet journal:** Use with **caution if you choose to do with students.** Try blogging! Several websites offer free blog (short for weblog) utilities where you can write about your life as easily as sending E-mail. Try www.livejournal.com or www.diaryland.com

April



is National Poetry Month!

Investigate these poets with your students:

+Edna St. Vincent Millay +Charlotte Bronte
+Anne Morrow Lindbergh +Robert Browning
+Robert Louis Stevenson

+Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We have GREAT - kid friendly - biographies of poets in the Media Center!



Poetry Sites for Kids~

<http://www.poetryzone.ndirect.co.uk/con/>
<http://www.kristinegeorge.com/>
<http://www.poetryzone.ndirect.co.uk/links.htm>
<http://www.poetryclass.net/kids.htm>
<http://www.mickleigh.com/kids-poetry/Kids-Poetry.asp>
<http://www.poetry4kids.com/links.html>

Bulletin Board Idea!

Have your students write 'eggs'tra special stories! The day ____ came out of the egg.....!



Creative~ Simple~ Forms of Poetry

PHOETRY= a combination of poetry & photography:

~Take (or bring in) snapshots of anything that interests you/your students, or a curriculum area. Then write poetry to describe actions, impressions, feelings or places represented in the pictures.

"ME" Poetry:

~Have students write a poem in which every other line begins:

I seem to be _____

But I really am _____

Or like this:

I'm good at _____

I'm not so good at _____

Borrowed Starters:

~Have students borrow a line from a poem or a title from a book to serve as the starting line for their own poem or story.

Personal Poetry Cache:

(Works well as a learning center.)

~Have students pick a theme they like or are interested in: plants, sports, insects, animals, dreams, feelings, seasons, mischief, nature, sounds, etc. Have them collect poems that relate to their theme from a variety of poetry books. Have the students create a special 'notebook' or scrapbook that they have made. They should add at least two of their own poems on their theme for their collections.

Source: *If you're Trying to Teach Kids How to Write. You've Gotta Have this Book!*
Marjorie Frank

Thanks to Kelley Welf @ the Lindbergh Foundation for information regarding AML's quotes.