

# Get Kids Excited to Write!

Make creativity part of your daily literacy instruction with writing tips and inspiring videos from popular children's book authors.



## Try Something New

- **Give them writing prompts**, like a new genre or an unexpected first line. Keep this type of writing low-stakes so that students feel free to experiment. (Check out the Nurturing Young Writers video, right, at 04:32—we love this ready-to-go writing prompt!)
- Every good story needs a problem. Throughout the school day, have students look out for **interesting problems for characters to solve**. A lost lunch or a tricky math problem can inspire a great plot!
- Author Daniel José Older found a story idea while he was doing research for a totally different project. Remind students that they can find **story inspiration from topics they're studying in other classes**. Maybe a plot revolves around a scientific discovery, or is set during an exciting historical event from the past.



## Use a Journal

- Have students start a daily writing habit in class. Ask them to **write for five minutes without stopping**, even if they feel like they don't have anything to say. They might be surprised at what they come up with!
- When students are writing for class, have them **record their writing process** in a journal. What did they do that worked well? What do they want to improve?



## Reuse and Recycle

- Encourage students to take ideas from **previous writing activities** if they feel stuck. Inspiration might be hiding right in their journals!
- Ask students to **revise stories** that they wrote weeks or months ago. Challenge them to add a fresh perspective by creating new plot twists or character motivations.

## Video Tips

### Teacher PD

#### Nurturing Young Writers With Daniel José Older



[scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video1](https://www.scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video1)

- **01:54** How can teachers get students to think outside the box?
- **03:19** Should teachers assign prompts or direction for student journals?
- **05:08** How can teachers build confidence in students who get stuck when they write?
- **05:37** How do you recommend teachers implement journaling in the classroom?

### Students Grs. 2–4

#### Finding Ideas & Inspiration With Peter H. Reynolds



[scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video2](https://www.scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video2)

- **01:05** What makes a good story?
- **01:56** How do you come up with different ideas or find new inspiration?
- **02:45** What can you say to a student who doesn't think they're creative enough to tell their own story?
- **04:05** What's the one thing that every great story has to have?

### Students Grs. 5–6

#### Plotting Your Story With Sayantani DasGupta



[scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video3](https://www.scholastic.com/writingthefuture/video3)

- **01:11** Do you always write your stories in order, or do you sometimes start with the turning point?
- **01:50** Where do you find plot ideas for your stories? Are there things that inspire you?
- **02:51** How do you get your characters to the turning point?
- **04:40** How do you make sure your characters change as the plot develops?