

Acknowledgments

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Write Away on the Web!

This book is just the beginning! Go to k12.thoughtfullearning.com to find free student models, writing topics, minilessons, and a whole lot of other resources for writing. While you're there, sign up to receive teaching tips and news each month in the free Thoughtful Learning Newsletter!

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Up, Up, and Away!

The *Write Away* handbook is divided into five parts:

The Process of Writing This part helps you learn all about writing.

The Forms of Writing Here you'll learn how to write reports, essays, stories, and poetry. You'll even learn how to make posters.

The Tools of Learning Reading, word study, and listening are important skills. This part covers them all.

Proofreader's Guide When should you use periods and capital letters? You'll find out here.

Student Almanac This part has facts about science, math, history, and more!

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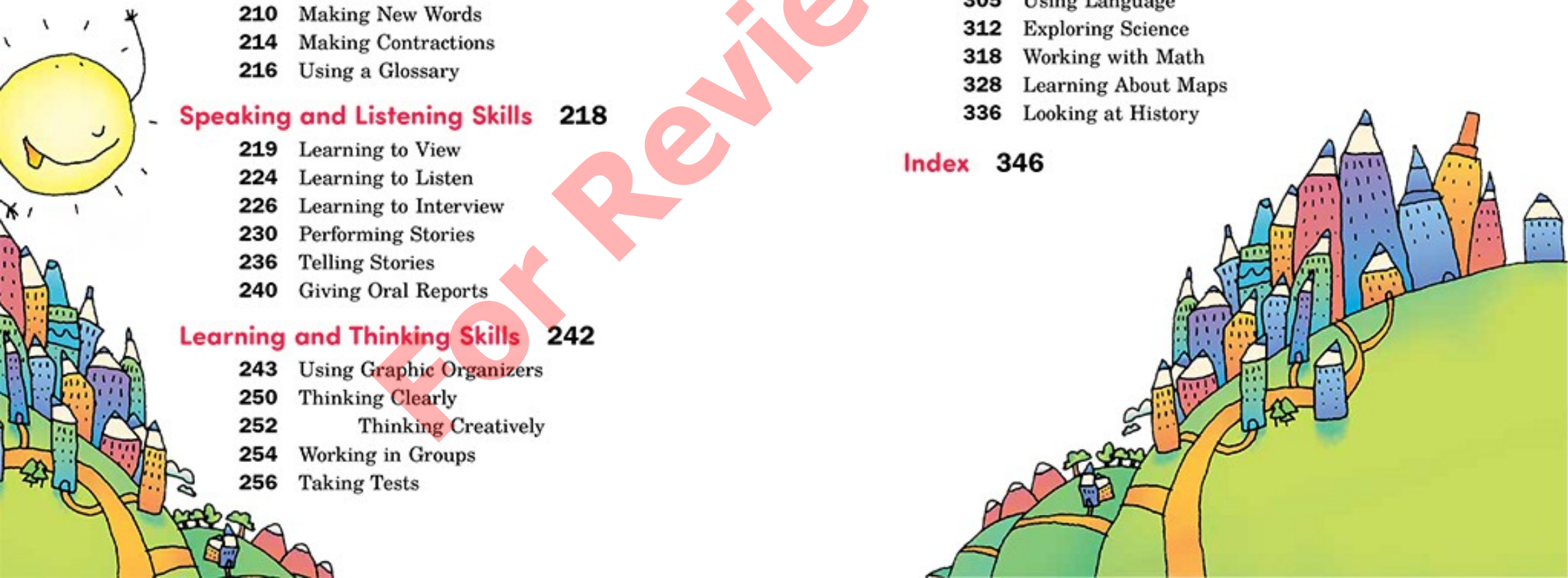
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Using the Writing Process

Writing is a process because you build it step by step. There are five steps to follow.

1

PRE-WRITE

Think of topics to write about.

Choose the best one.

List details about your topic.

2

WRITE

Write about your topic.

Include a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

3

REVISE

Read over your writing.

Ask a partner to read it, too.

Make changes as needed.

4

EDIT

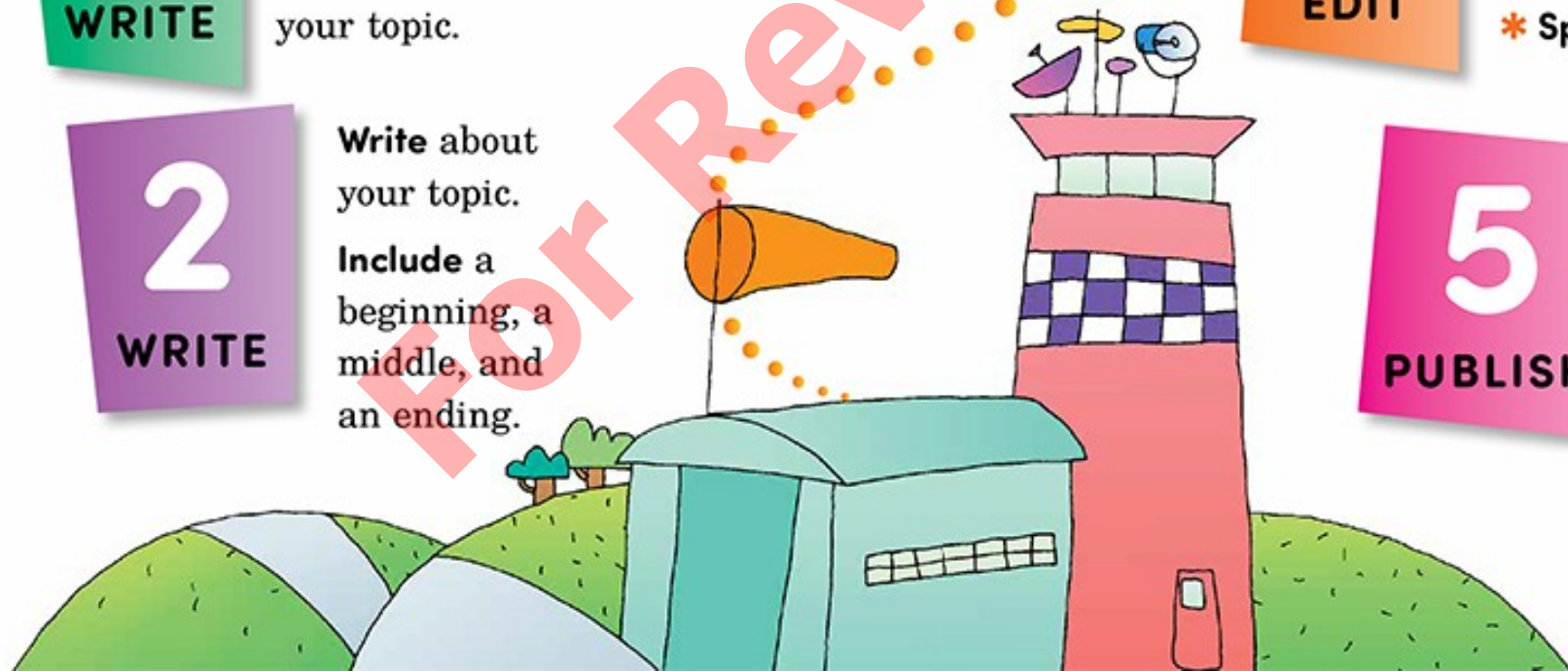
Check your writing for . . .

- * Capital Letters
- * Punctuation
- * Spelling

5

PUBLISH

Write a neat final copy. Share your writing.



Writing Paragraphs

When you write, you can describe a topic or give information about it. You can share a story or give reasons for something. You can do each of these things in a paragraph.

Sharing and Telling

This chapter shows you how to write four different types of paragraphs.



What Is a Paragraph?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences about the same topic. All paragraphs have a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

Beginning

The first sentence is usually the **topic sentence**. This sentence introduces the topic.

Middle

The middle sentences are called the **body**. They tell about the topic.

Ending

The last sentence is called the **ending sentence**. It gives one more idea about the topic.



GOOD POINT

Reading paragraphs helps you write them. You can get started by reading the sample on the next page.

SAMPLE Paragraph – Describing

In this paragraph, Michael describes his favorite sandwich.

My Best Sandwich

Topic Sentence

Toasted cheese sandwiches are great. They smell buttery and look golden brown. When you bite into one, you can see the melted yellow cheese. Toasted cheese sandwiches taste crunchy on the outside and creamy in the middle. I could eat one every day!

Body

Ending Sentence



Writing a Describing Paragraph

Pick a Topic

Pick a person, place, or thing to describe.

Gather Ideas

List ideas. How does your topic look, sound, taste, feel, or smell?



1
PRE-WRITE

2
WRITE

Write the Three Parts

- * Introduce your topic in the first sentence.
- * Give more details in the middle sentences.
- * End with a closing idea that's interesting.

3

REVISE

Check Your First Draft

- * Do all of your sentences describe the topic?
- * Does the order of your sentences make sense?

4

EDIT

Check for Errors

- ✓ Check your sentences for punctuation, capital letters, and spelling.
- ✓ Write a neat final copy.

Remember to indent the first line in your paragraph.

**SAMPLE Paragraph – Informing**

In this paragraph, Kumal gives important information about plants and their roots.

Plant Roots**Topic Sentence**

Plant roots do their work underground. They spread out to find water.

Body

They also soak up minerals to make the plant healthy. When it rains hard, roots keep the plant standing.

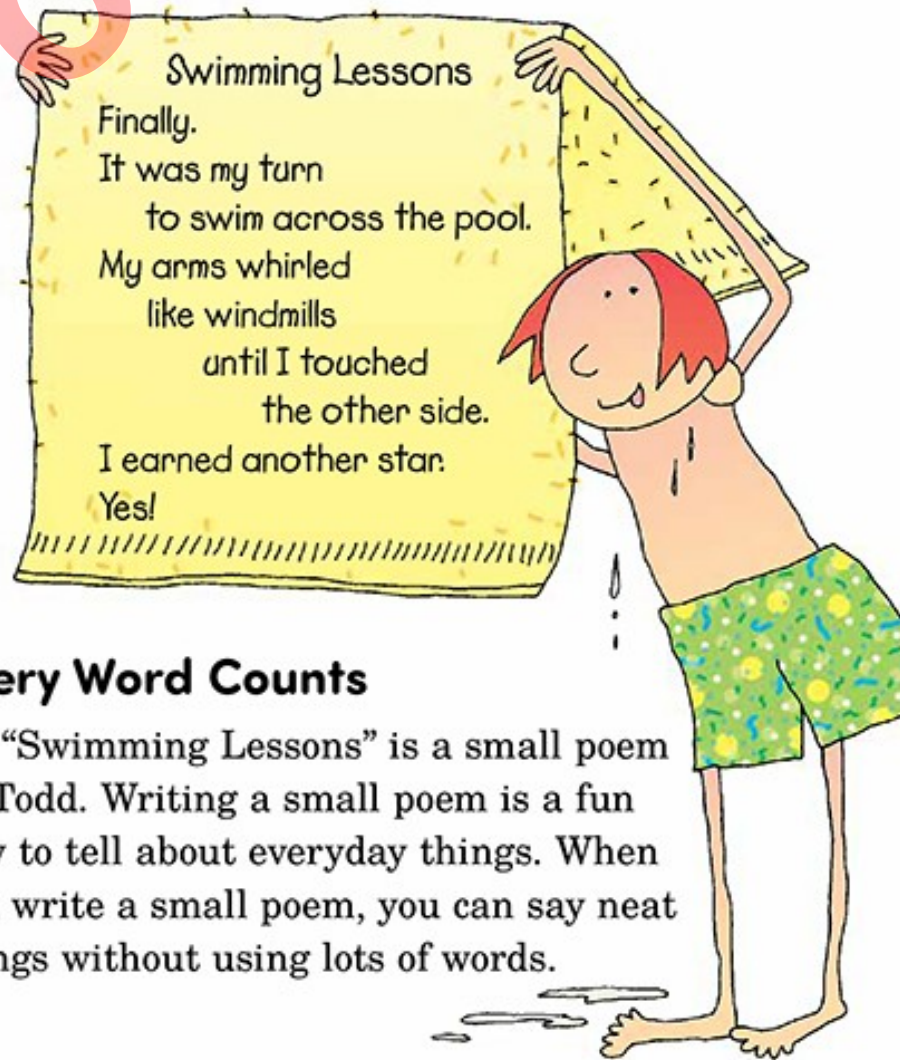
Ending Sentence

A plant would die without roots.



Poetry Writing

Writing Small Poems



Swimming Lessons

Finally.
It was my turn
to swim across the pool.
My arms whirled
like windmills
until I touched
the other side.
I earned another star.
Yes!

Every Word Counts

“Swimming Lessons” is a small poem by Todd. Writing a small poem is a fun way to tell about everyday things. When you write a small poem, you can say neat things without using lots of words.

List Poems

There are many kinds of small poems. A list poem is a string of thoughts about one subject. Susan's "Snow Fun" is a list poem. You can follow the steps on the next three pages to write your own list poem.

SAMPLE List Poem



Writing a List Poem

Think of Poem Ideas

Write down everyday things:

- ✓ snow
- stars
- pebbles
- buses

Choose One Idea

List words and phrases about your idea.

PRE-WRITE



Proofreader's Guide



Using Punctuation

A “walk” signal tells us to go. A “don’t walk” signal tells us to stop. These signals are very important.

Stopping and Going

Punctuation marks are signals we use in writing. For example, we use a period to signal a stop at the end of a sentence. You can learn about using punctuation in this chapter.

