

You Can Encourage Your Child to Write!

Here are a few writing exercises from

The I Love To Write Book: Ideas and Tips for Young Writers

by Mary-Lane Kamberg (Crickhollow Books, 2008)
with Preface by [John Riddle](#), Founder of [I Love To Write Day](#)

- For the book's Table of Contents:
http://www.crickhollowbooks.com/ILTW_TOC.html
- To order the book from Amazon.com:
<http://www.amazon.com/Love-Write-Book-Ideas-Writers/dp/1933987057>

EXERCISE #1: My Home Town

Write a paragraph that describes your hometown. Give examples of things you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. What does your town look like? What sounds do you hear on a moonless summer night? Does a river run through town? What kinds of trees, bushes, or other plants grow there?

What foods are most popular or unique in your town?

What smells are common? Ocean air? Lilac bushes?

EXERCISE #2: 10-Minute Challenge

Make an appointment with yourself to write for 10 minutes at a certain time of day every day for a week.

Open a book or newspaper, or grab a cereal box.

Write down any sentence from it.

Set a timer for 10 minutes.

Now, write a story using the sentence as the beginning.

Write fast. Keep your pencil moving until the timer rings.

EXERCISE #3: One Park, Two Moods

Take a pencil and notebook with you to a park. While you're there, write down everything you see, smell, hear, taste, and touch. (You might have to actually touch the tree bark or the concrete park-bench!)

At home, separate the images into one list of things a sad person might notice and one list of things a happy person might notice.

Write a poem or paragraph about a person who is sad – using some of the items on the “sad” list. Write another poem or paragraph about someone who is happy – using some of the items on the “happy” list.

EXERCISE #4: Imitate & Learn

Find a part in a book that makes you sad, or happy, or worried. See if you can tell how the writer helped you feel that emotion. Now try to write a couple of paragraphs that imitate the writer's style. Can you use some of the same tricks to make a reader cry? Or laugh? Or feel suspense?

EXERCISE #5: How Do I Feel?

Write something that happened that made you happy, sad, frightened, or safe. Record any physical feelings you experienced (stomach ache, the touch of a soft blanket, etc.) Why did you react this way?

EXERCISE #6: Write a Poem about What You See

Look out the window. Write down five items that you see. Then, close your eyes and put your fingertip on the paper. Next, open your eyes and see which item your finger is closest to. Write a poem about it.

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