



INSTRUCTIONS

Teacher, the words/terms under the various headings have been carefully selected so that, for almost any subject your class is studying, your students can:

- a. just glance and choose or
- b. peruse thoroughly before deciding

While there are no specific right answers or choices, the options on each side, MAIN CHARACTER, SETTING, SUBJECT, etc. were selected based on American history, geography, and biography subjects common in elementary school, and all correlate to Common Core writing standards.

For example, no matter which part of the Writer's Block a child starts on, they should end up with a helpful list to use as an outline:

- CHARACTER: A runaway horse
- SETTING: An old fort
- TIME: The Civil War
- PLOT IDEA: A missing treasure
- TITLE: The Lonesome Pony

And therefore easily build a narrative or informative writing piece that ties into any subject you may be teaching.

The choices also let students have hundreds of combinations so that they can really exercise their decision-making and creativity skills. Again, there is no right or wrong answer. A child could choose to write poem about a boy in a bicycle shop during the Age of Invention, for example. But with a slightly different assortment, he or she could just as easily write a Wright Brothers mystery or a First Flight Blog!

The ideas and inspiration are endless!

Keep the Writer's Block on your desk for students to borrow, or pass it around when students get "stumped" and need an idea or a little help.

CAROLE MARSH SAYS...

**"THERE'S NO NEED TO HAVE WRITER'S BLOCK...
WHEN YOU HAVE A WRITER'S BLOCK!"**

Carole Marsh's



Writing Tips:

- Write a dramatic opening sentence that starts right in the middle of the action!
- Use strong adjectives to bring your setting to life!
- Make your main character memorable with specific details!
- Give your plot a beginning, middle, and end!
- Write an "Oh, I must read that!" title!
- Use powerful verbs!
- Use dialogue when you can; let your characters talk!
- Show, don't tell!
- Use descriptions that awaken the senses—allowing you to hear, smell, feel, taste, and see your story.
- Find writing tools to help you—dictionary, thesaurus, rhyming dictionary, etc.



REPRODUCIBLE WRITING PLAN WORKSHEET FOR STUDENTS!

I used Carole Marsh's Writer's Block and chose:

My setting:

My main character:

The time of my story is:

The plot will involve:

My format will be:

My title is:

My assigned word count is:

My deadline is:

Other notes:
