

Writing during the shutdown

Everyone is on lockdown. The kids are out of school and getting cabin fever. They probably are looking for things to do - and so are you!

This worksheet lists activities for the kids to engage in that will get them using their creativity in various ways while encouraging them to write.

These are just suggestions, feel free to use the idea and change it to fit your needs. With parents permission, I'd be interested in reading any of the stories - send to stories@sa-schneider.com

Activity 1

Stories take place in more places than books. Many stories you know have probably been from a movie. Take a favorite movie, watch it again, and then write a similar story but with your own characters and setting. For example:

1 - In Frozen, one character develops super powers and turns mean and the other character(s) save them. This story is already a redone story called the Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson.

2 - Many favorite stories and movies are already redone. Quite a few, like Cinderella and Snow White, are from Grimms fairytales. Check out Grimms fairytales and Aesop's fables and try your hand at rewriting those.

3 - Watch Iron Man or Captain America. When you are writing a superhero story, the first one that explains how they got their powers is called an origin story. Create your own superhero with super powers and write a story about how they got them.

Activity 2

There are a lot of great stories in books. A fun activity is to rewrite a scene in the book. A scene is usually just one part of the story. A scene will take place with certain characters from the story in one place. If you read a book and think that one of the scenes could be better rewrite that scene.

1 - Try to change the characters in the scene and write how they would act different than the original characters.

2 - Write the dialogue differently. If you think that the words the characters say isn't right, then write something different.

Activity 3

How about writing a completely new story? If you aren't sure of what to write about, try one of these ideas:

1 - Your dog ran away and you go to look for them. While doing so, you fall in a river that is glowing purple and orange and afterwards you discover you can fly.

2 - You are in your backyard playing soccer. Suddenly a black pit opens in the yard and you fall in. You wake up and find yourself surrounded by knights. Or maybe a bunch of elves with bows and arrows pointed at you. This is similar to the story A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court by Mark Twain.

3 - Take one of your favorite books and write a sequel to it. A sequel is a book that comes after another book, like a series. A great book is *Trapped in a Video Game* by my friend Dustin Brady.

Activity 4

If you like to draw, how about illustrating your favorite story? Draw a series of pictures that show some of the best scenes from the story. Use any book you've read and draw some of the scenes.

Activity 5

The sky is the limit. Create a clay model of someone from a book. Or if you have a 3d printer, create a 3d model and print it out. Gather up some socks and various other pieces and create a puppet. In fact, create a bunch of puppets and act out the story in a play. Record it and edit it into a movie. Get someone to make music to add to your production.

Activity 6

Ask your parents what some of their favorite cartoons were when they were growing up. Then watch one of those cartoons. Take characters from your favorite cartoon and rewrite the story using your favorite characters.

Activity 7

Do you like jokes? If so, take a favorite joke and turn it into a comic strip, like in the newspaper. You can also look up comic strips online. Draw several based on your favorite stories or jokes.

Activity 8

How about a mashup? A mashup is where you take two different things and put them together. You can create stories that include characters from different books, show and worlds.

1 - What if you took Percy Jackson from Rick Riordan's book and wrote a story with him and Iron man saving New York from Poseidon?

2 - How about Harry Potter meets Elsa?

3 - Or think of something not so big and popular. I liked The Baby from Star Wars the Mandalorian. What if the baby was riding on Toothless from How to Train Your Dragon?

Bonus:

If you have a shoe box or a similar box, you can turn it into a small theater. Take a comic strip that you like, (it can be the ones you drew), and cut out several days or weeks' worth of comics. Tape them together end to end so they form a big long strip. Cut a square out of the bottom of your shoebox and then a slit on each side. I used to love doing this.

Resources:

Hans Christian Anderson Fairy Tales - <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/2298>

Aesops Fables - <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/18732>

Grimms Fairy Tales - <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/52521>

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court - <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/86>

Trapped in a video game - <https://www.amazon.com/Trapped-Video-Game-Book-1/dp/1449494862>

Comics online - gocomics.com

Example of the shoebox theater - <https://youtu.be/nuFdaomleOY>

If you would like more writing ideas, I include a section with each story to prompt kids to write their own creative stories.

Check out a free short story - Clarise and the Night Show - <https://www.saschneider.com/books/clarise-and-the-night-show/>

You can also get book 1 of the Town Magician series available for pre-order at Amazon -