

Our Class Book About _____

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

100 Things About Me Structured Writing Journals

Congratulations on your purchase of this set of Really Good Stuff® **100 Things About Me Structured Writing Journals**. Each one of these journals contains 100 different writing prompts to help jump-start your students with their writing.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- Twelve **100 Things About Me Structured Writing Journals**
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Introducing the 100 Things About Me Structured Writing Journals

Before you discuss these journals with your students, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide and file the pages for future use. The following are different ways to use the journals, depending on the needs of your students.

One Page a Day

Have your students write about one prompt each day. Tell them to write about the first prompt on the first day of school, the second prompt on the second day of school, and so forth until the 100th day of school. On the 100th day of school, ask students to choose their favorite entries to share with their classmates. Tell students to flip through their journals and pay particular attention to how their writing has progressed during those 100 days. For example, have them check to see whether their sentences are longer, they have used more adjectives, and their thoughts are better organized.

The Skip-Around Approach

Distribute one journal to each student. During writing time each day, students choose which prompt they want to respond to, which allows for personal inspiration and creativity.

Follow a Theme

Using the Table of Contents that is included in this Activity Guide, choose relevant prompts based on relevant themes based on seasons, holidays, or curriculum. In October, for example, have your whole class respond to Prompt 30: *If my jack-o-lantern could talk, it would say...* Or, tell your students to respond to Prompt 53: *A special birthday party...* or Prompt 100: *A perfect birthday cake would be decorated...* during the week of his or her birthday.

Timed Writing

Use these journals as mini timed-writing pieces. For

instance, have students spend only 15 minutes a day responding to each prompt.

Free-Time Journals

Have students use these journals when they finish their other work. Because they get to choose which prompt to respond to, they will be motivated to work on them once their other work is completed.

Art Connection

Copy, distribute, and supply students with many of the *My Journal Sketch Page Reproductions* and have students draw and color a picture to go with each of their entries.

Class Book

After all of your students have responded to one of the prompts, copy each of their entries. Create a fancy cover or copy and use the *Our Class Book About _____ Reproducible* as a cover. Bind students' entries together, add the cover, and laminate the cover to make a class book for the entire class to enjoy!

Poetry Connection

Read the title of the poem *Where Go the Boats?* by Robert Louis Stevenson, and ask students what they think the poem might be about. Solicit a few ideas, but not too many so you don't affect the students' perception of the meaning. Read the poem aloud to your class. Discuss the images evoked and ask students to share how the poem makes them feel. Reread the poem, pausing after each stanza and encourage students to discuss unknown or unfamiliar words. As a group, use context clues to help determine meaning.

Have the students read and reread the poem silently (the poem is located on the back cover of their journal). Explain that fiction is a piece of literature based on imagination and not necessarily fact and that poetry is something written in verse. Tell students that not all poems rhyme and ask them if *Where Go the Boats?* rhymes then have them point out the rhyming words

Draw students attention to the illustration of the sailboats and ask them to draw what they "see" in their minds, what they picture when they read or hear the poem. Ask students to use the blank pages in the back of the journal to draw and color a picture to go with certain journal entries.

By: _____'s Class

