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Introduction

Each book in the *Power Practice*[™] series contains dozens of ready-to-use activity pages to provide students with skill practice. Use the fun activities to supplement and enhance what you are already teaching in your classroom. Give an activity page to students as independent class work, or send the pages home as homework to reinforce skills taught in class. An answer key is included at the end of each book to provide verification of student responses.

The activity pages in *Traits of Good Writing 4–5* provide an ideal way to enhance students' writing skills. The book features activities that target six important traits of writing: Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. These fun and challenging activities give students many opportunities to practice each writing skill in a meaningful way.

As students learn to recognize the traits of good writing, they will brainstorm and develop topics, develop and organize their thoughts and ideas, and then put their writing skills into practice. Students will gain confidence in their writing ability as they enhance grammar and usage skills and gain an awareness of how word choice and sentence development influence their writing. As your young authors establish a style and voice of their own, they will be well on their way to becoming successful and competent writers.

Use these ready-to-go activities to “recharge” skill review and give students the power to succeed!

What Do You Know?

BRAINSTORMING TOPICS

A good writer will write about what he or she knows. Think of some things you know a lot about. What are your talents? What do you enjoy doing? You may know a lot about a person, a sport, a pet, a place, a hobby or game, or some kind of food. Look at this list of ideas. Circle the ideas you could write about. Add your own ideas in the blank spaces.

baseball	making cookies	a great book	soccer	a favorite movie
my dad	our family	a family vacation	my pet	riding a bike
camping	painting	my bedroom	your city	my mom
a favorite teacher	my house	doing chores	ice cream	pizza

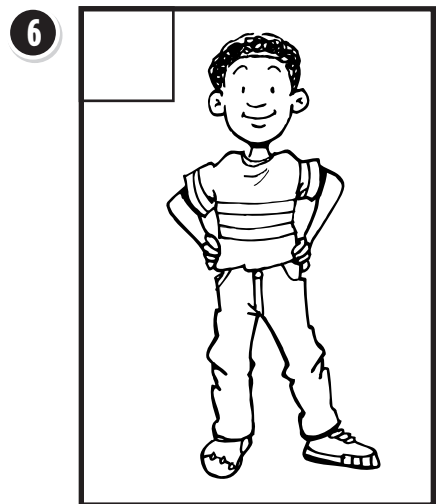
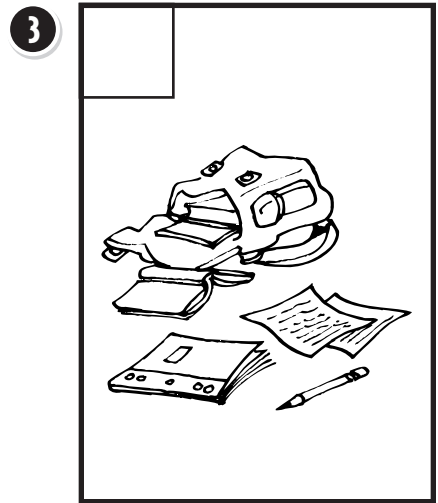


Which three topics would be easiest for you to write about? Draw a star by these. Write about one of these topics.

Picture Perfect

GATHERING IDEAS

You can get ideas for writing by looking at pictures. Look at each picture and read each sentence. Write the letter of the sentence that corresponds with each picture.



- a. Who will make the first splash, the squirrel or the finch?
- b. Planting, digging, weeding, and watering are important tasks for the committed gardener.
- c. My shoe stuck to the newly tarred road. I didn't know what to do, so I just ran.
- d. It isn't easy giving Rex a bath. I usually end up getting wetter than he.
- e. When Jason found a twenty-dollar bill on the sidewalk, he dropped his backpack and ran home to tell his mom.
- f. The floodwater was so high that animals would do anything to find a dry place to perch.

Experiences

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

Experiences give you ideas for writing. What interesting experiences have you had? Look at the list of experiences on this page. Circle each experience you have had.

- | | |
|--|--|
| having fun at a water park | sledding down a big hill |
| getting stung by a bee | riding a skateboard |
| getting along with brothers and sisters | feelings you have when a pet dies |
| playing baseball | catching frogs and other creatures |
| building a robot | being a good friend |
| breaking an arm or leg | ice-skating |
| making a submarine sandwich | a fun family picnic |
| mixing up a batch of great cookies | entertaining yourself on a long car ride |
| riding a city bus | planting a garden |
| getting stitches | building a tree fort |
| in-line skating | making a bed |
| fishing from shore | planting a tree |
| having a cavity filled | setting up a lemonade stand |
| what it's like to be the new kid at school | collecting football or baseball cards |
| getting good grades at school | playing an instrument |
| wearing braces | planning a neighborhood circus |
| washing a car | cleaning the garage |
| taking care of a younger sibling | moving to a new house |
| water-skiing | a day at the carnival |

Think of six more experiences you have had that you could write about. Write them in the blank spaces.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Now choose an experience and write all you can about that experience.

Let's Explore!

OBSERVING AND GATHERING DETAILS

Exploring and observing are important skills to use when writing. When you observe your surroundings you can gather many details to use in your writing.

Go outside or to another location and observe your surroundings. Write your observations in the chart. Use your five senses to help you discover specific details. Write any interesting or important facts about the items that you observe.

What I	Interesting	Important
saw:		
heard:		
smelled:		
felt:		
tasted:		



Use the information you gathered to write a paragraph about your observations.

Project Pet

GROUPING IDEAS OR DETAILS

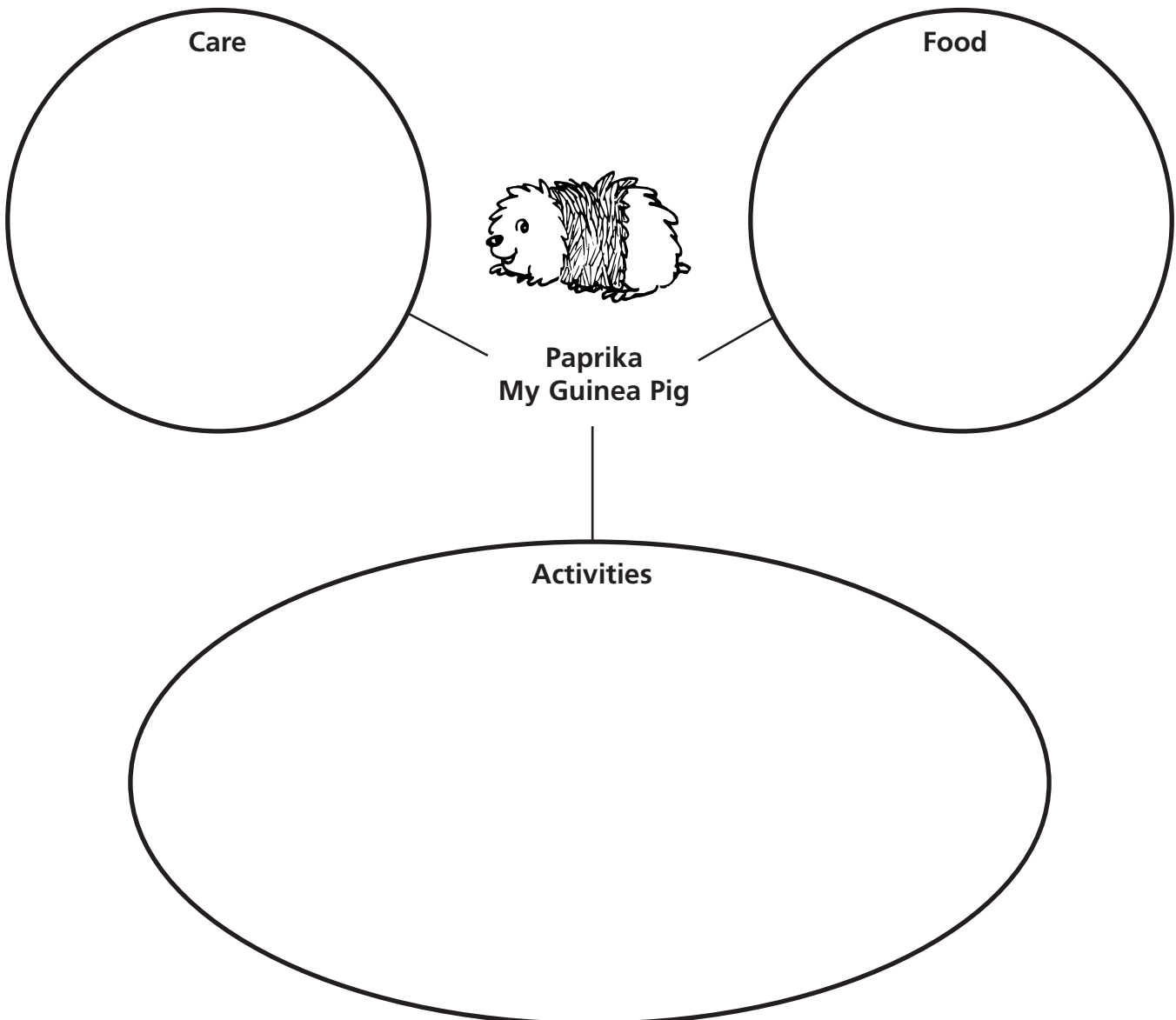
Organizing ideas and details before you begin writing is important. Look at the information inside the box. Write each detail in the appropriate section of the graphic organizer.

Brush her fur
Squeaks and chatters
Give her food and water
Take her for a walk

Carrots
Chews on chew stick
Bathe once a week
Build a maze for her

Hold and hug her
Apple slices
Clean her cage
Clip her nails

Pellets
Sleeps
Hay
Grass



Start a Story

STORY STARTERS

A **story starter** helps you get an idea for writing. Look at each of these story starters. Then read the details below. Write the letters of the details that match each story starter.

It was a crazy day in art class.

It was the best birthday surprise I ever had.

I never had so much fun on a rainy day.

This was going to be the best Saturday our family ever spent together.

My mom is usually the best cook in our family.

There's nothing better than getting a brand-new pet.

- a. My grandma came up from Chicago to see me.
- b. Ricky opened the jar of paint, and it spilled all over.
- c. I named him Clyde and vowed he would be my best friend.
- d. I set my painting on the windowsill to dry. The wind blew in and my painting landed on Jennifer's back. The back of her white T-shirt was covered in paint.
- e. I walked into the garage and all my friends were there.
- f. We jumped in the biggest puddles we could find.
- g. He loves to see me when I come home from school.
- h. Mrs. Hagen dropped a clay pot and it shattered on the floor.
- i. We put on raincoats and rubber boots.
- j. She somehow put salt in the cake instead of sugar.
- k. Mom gave me a new skateboard.
- l. Dad had the van packed for a day at the beach.
- m. Afterwards, we collected 36 night crawlers for fishing.
- n. There was a ton of frosting piled on a salty cake.
- o. Mom made huge submarine sandwiches.
- p. The cake didn't rise. It was only one inch high.
- q. The pizza parlor would be our last stop for dinner.
- r. I trained my new puppy to obey right away.



Choose the story starter you like best and write your own story.

It's Time to Write

WRITING PROMPTS

A writing prompt can help you think of ideas to write about.
Writing that shares information or explains something is called **expository writing**.
Writing that tells a story is called **narrative writing**.

Read each writing prompt. Shade in the circle next to the letter **E** if it is an expository writing prompt. Shade in the circle next to the letter **N** if it is a narrative writing prompt.

- 1 E N Explain how to make a root beer float.
- 2 E N Write about a spaceship that landed on your school playground.
- 3 E N Tell how to get to your house from school.
- 4 E N Write a letter to your parents explaining why you're old enough to sleep over at a friend's house.
- 5 E N Tell what happened on your last family vacation.
- 6 E N Explain the likenesses and differences between kickball and soccer.
- 7 E N Tell about a frightening experience that you and a friend had together.
- 8 E N Gather information about porcupines and write what you learn.
- 9 E N Write about the worst day you've ever had.
- 10 E N Tell your reasons why participating in sports is good for kids.

