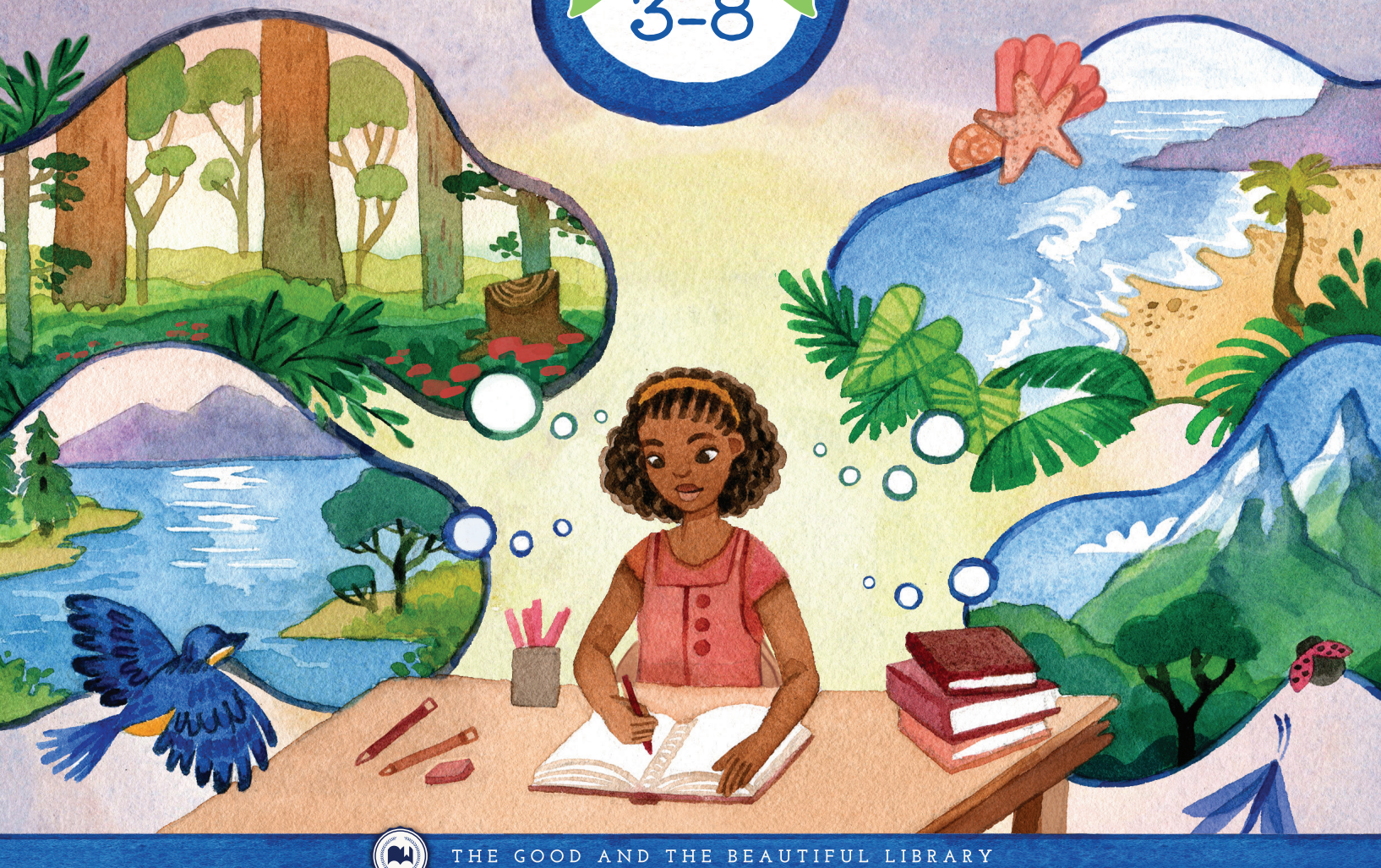
CREATIVE WRITING

NOTEBOOK #1

GRADES 3–8



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

WRITING "GOOD & BEAUTIFUL" STYLE

You can be a light in a dark world!

Many books today are packed with disrespectful behavior toward parents and teachers. Young characters often have negative attitudes toward family members and education. Writers often make these things seem funny and acceptable and also focus only on thrill and fun and self-centered excitement. This type of writing may be popular and may sell a lot of books, but our world desperately needs writers who write to uplift and inspire. You can be that kind of writer! Determine now that your writing will not just be about self-centered excitement. Determine now that your writing will never make inappropriate behavior seem funny or acceptable. You can be a light in a dark world!

Read the sentences below. Cross out behaviors that are not "good and beautiful," and never include these things in your writing!

1. A girl rolls her eyes at her mother.
2. A boy steals some gum, but feels bad and repents.
3. A boy makes fun of a teacher behind his back.
4. Disrespectful, disobedient behavior is portrayed as acceptable.
5. All the main character cares about is having fun.
6. A girl has a lot of fun as she helps another person.
7. A bunch of young girls are obsessed with boys.
8. A boy acts like his little sister is a pest.
9. A girl acts as if her parents are no fun.
10. A boy thinks school is a bore.



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Make Your Descriptions Fly Higher!



Practice replacing description that states the way something is using “to be” verbs (is, are, etc.) with description that uses active verbs.

Example:
To be verb: Her eyes are beautiful.
Active verb: Her eyes shimmer with light as she smiles.

To be verb: The bird is flying.
Active verb:

To be verb: The ring is fancy.
Active verb:

To be verb: The trees are tall.
Active verb:

To be verb: The baby is laughing.
Active verb:

To be verb: The sun is shining.
Active verb:

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Rainbow Words

On each color of the rainbow, write as many ways as you can think of to write each color. Purple is completed for you as an example. If needed, look up the color on Thesaurus.com or visit http://www.words-to-use.com/words/colors-names/.



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Colors



Underline all the references to color in this passage by author Evaleen Stein:

As Raoul and Sidney first saw it in the gray light of early dawn, for the night was almost gone, it looked very ghostly and forlorn. One great round tower, though roofless and broken, still rose above the battered and crumbling walls of stone. Beautiful little blue-bells and wild pinks had spread a tangled mass of bloom over these walls, and green mosses and silvery grasses tufted the forsaken fireplaces and carpeted the sunken flagstones of the floors.

Go outside (or look out a window) and describe in detail the nature that you see; use descriptions of color.

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Describe the Scene

Describe in detail the scene in the painting below. Use your imagination to describe what you see and what you might smell, hear, and feel.



"Fishing Party" by Fitz Henry Lane (1804–1865), 1850

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WRITING EXERCISES

Jump Start Beginnings

Find two first sentences you really like from books you have never read. Write the sentences in the gray boxes. Then, finish the paragraphs with your own words and ideas. When you are done, erase the sentences in the gray boxes and write new beginning sentences that work with the paragraphs you wrote.

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Heart Map

It's easy to write about things you really love or things you really dislike. Inside the heart make a list of things you love. Outside of the heart, make a list of things you really dislike.



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Possible Antagonists

Antagonist = a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something

Name: _____

About: _____

Name: _____

About: _____

Name: _____

About: _____

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Character Sketch

Fill out this page about an imaginary character. If desired, use the character sketch to spark story ideas.

Character Name: _____ Age: _____

Physical Appearance

Personality

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Ideas for Mysteries



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

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Possible "Good & Beautiful" Messages

1. Example: A boy realizes that being kind is more important than being popular.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

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Dialogue

In each gray box, write a short phrase you have heard someone say. On another day, in the white boxes, write an imaginary dialogue that includes the phrases.

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Poetry Brainstorming
Family

Fill out the boxes.
Blessings of the family

Thoughts/Ideas

Rhyming Words

Similes (e.g., She sings like an angel.)

Sensory Description

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Poetry Brainstorming

Animals

Write words or phrases that come to mind when you study the painting on this page.



"The Red Ball" by Sophie Sperlich (1863–1906), c. 1900

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Poetry Brainstorming

Trees

Write words or phrases that come to mind when you study the painting on this page.



"Oaks" by Ivan Shishkin (1832–1898), 1887

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Poetry Brainstorming
Inspiration from Paintings

Write words or phrases that come to mind when you study the painting on this page.



"A Welcome Break" by César Pattein (1850–1931), 1887

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Poem Inspired by a Painting

Choose one of the first lines or couplets that you wrote on the previous page and finish the poem.

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Poetry Brainstorming
Books or Learning

Write words or phrases that come to mind when you study the painting on this page.



"A Girl Writing; The Pet Goldfinch" by Henriette Browne (1829–1901), c. 1870

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Possible Plot

Inciting Incident: the event or decision that begins a story's problem

Rising Action: a series of events leading to the climax

Climax: the part of the story where the conflict and tension are at the highest point

Resolution: the part of the story that resolves the problem, answers any unanswered questions, and closes the story

Inciting Incident: _____

Rising Action: _____

Climax: _____

Resolution: _____

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Fly a Kite!



Imagine you are at a kite store with hundreds of different kites. You don't want to spend all day choosing a kite. You want to have time to fly it! In this notebook you have written many story ideas. Choose one and let it fly! Fill out the box below, then, on a computer or on paper, write the entire story.

Story Outline: Describe your story in one paragraph

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Overcoming Writer's Block

Finishing a full story can be hard! But imagine you are climbing a mountain peak. It's not designed to be easy. You may have to take some breaks to rest, but once you finally make it to the top of the mountain, it is a wonderful feeling! Use these ideas when you are stuck on a story.

Brainstorm Eight Options

What could possibly happen next that could move the story forward? Quickly write down the first eight options that come to your mind, whether or not you think they are good. Then, see if any of them spark a good idea.

Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blanks out loud:

What I'm trying to say here is _____.

What I want to have happen is _____.

Questions

Ask yourself questions. It works best to ask and answer out loud. Here are some possible questions:

How is pacing coming along (how fast the story unfolds)? Do I need to move more quickly to the climax of the story?

What is the main character's goal right now? What needs to happen now for the character to move toward that goal?

Do I need to back up to a certain point in the story and go in a different direction?

Discussion

Have a friend or parent read the story to the point you have gotten to. Then, have them ask you questions about the next part of your story.

Take a Break

Take a walk or do another activity for a time, and then come back to the story.

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