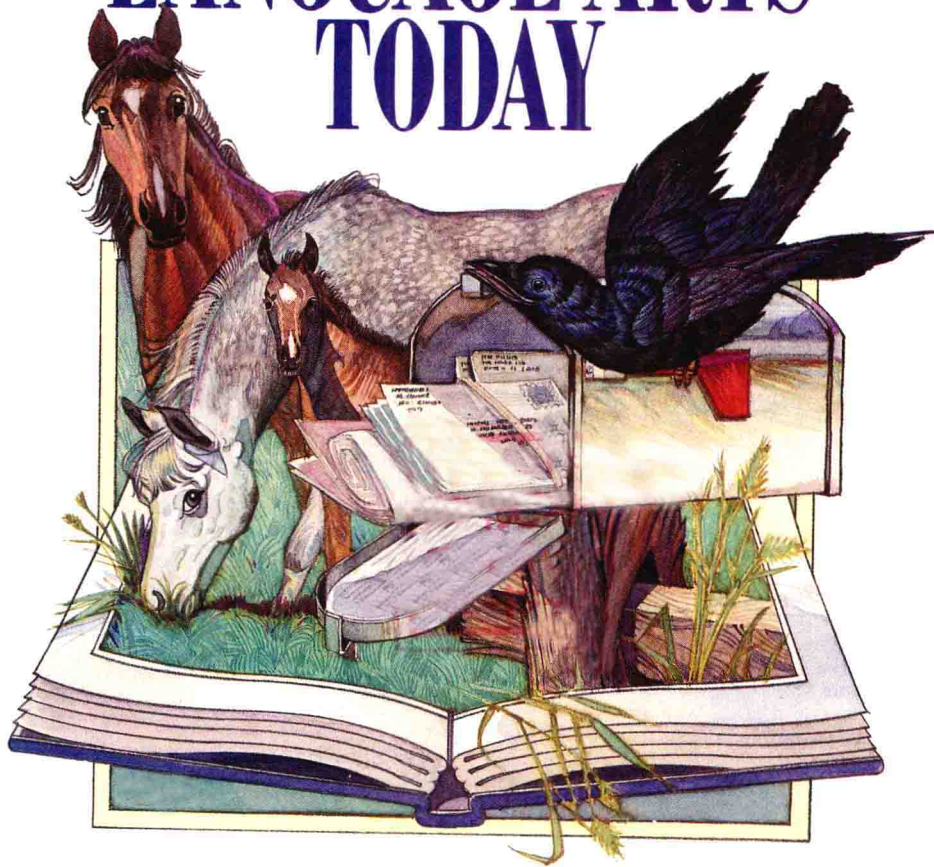


LANGUAGE ARTS TODAY



MACMILLAN / MCGRAW-HILL

LANGUAGE ARTS TODAY



Great literature is an inspiration. Katherine Paterson's *The Great Gilly Hopkins* inspired artist Don Daily to create the illustration on the cover of your book. The story begins on page 192. We hope that you enjoy the story and the illustration!

SENIOR AUTHORS

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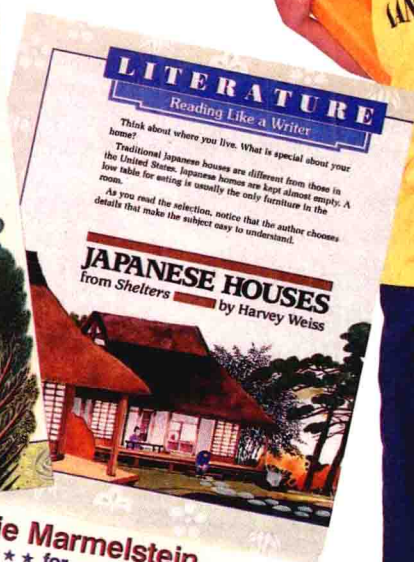
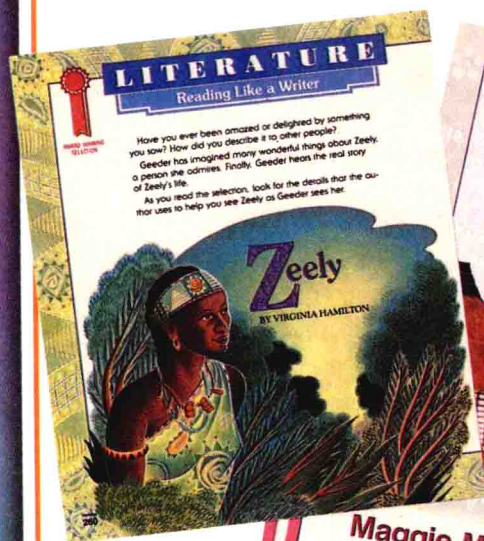
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LANGUAGE ARTS TODAY

WRITER TO WRITER

I'm here to answer some questions about writing, writer to writer, you might say. Ready? Let's begin!

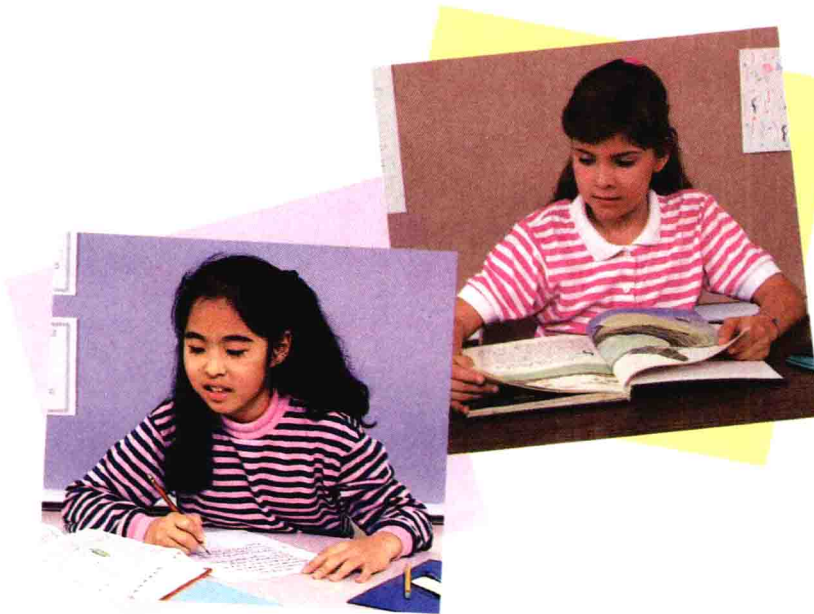



How can I
get ideas
for writing?

This book can really help you there. There's great literature between these covers. I noticed that after reading a good story, biography, or poem, I wanted to respond. Sometimes I wanted to write about the same topic or in a similar style. Sometimes I wanted to write a journal entry.



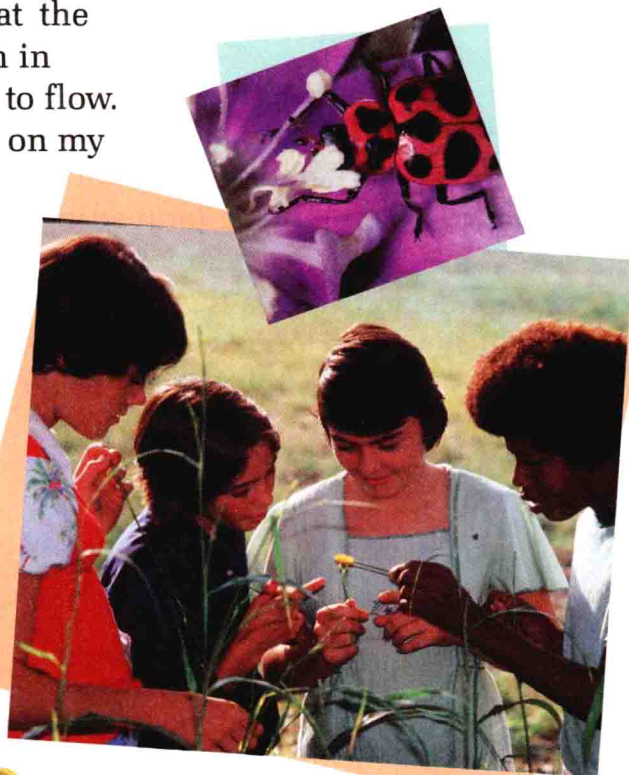
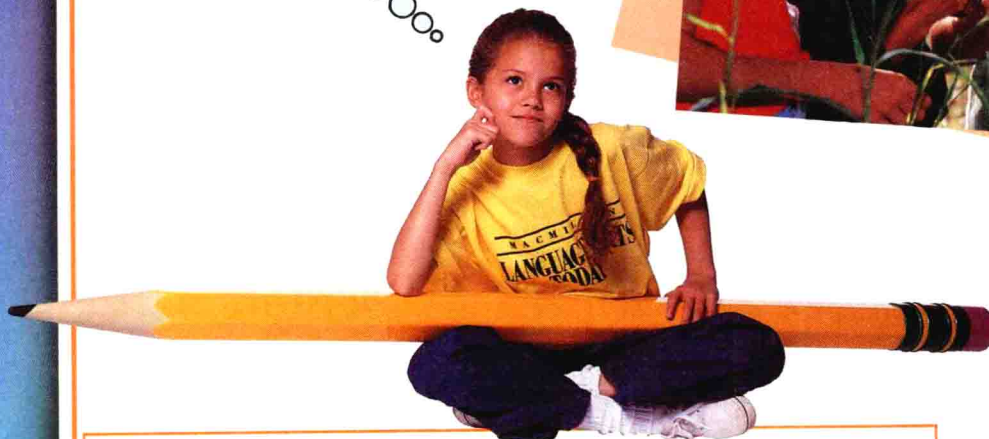
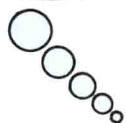
Writers
are readers,
and readers
are writers!



I know that sometimes, no matter how hard I try, the ideas won't come. Reading a story doesn't work. Talking with my friends doesn't help. Then, I take a look at the **PICTURES**  *SEEING LIKE A WRITER* section in this book, and presto! Ideas start to flow. The pictures turn up the volume on my imagination.

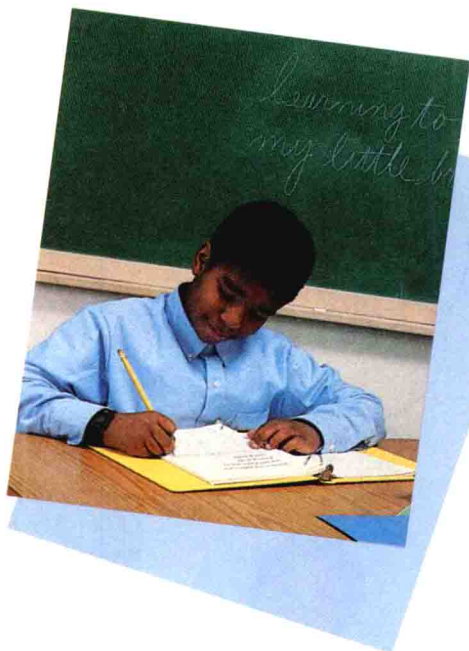
IMAGINE

What will
I write about
today?



Writers observe, and observers
can find lots of ideas for writing.

How will
I remember all
my ideas?



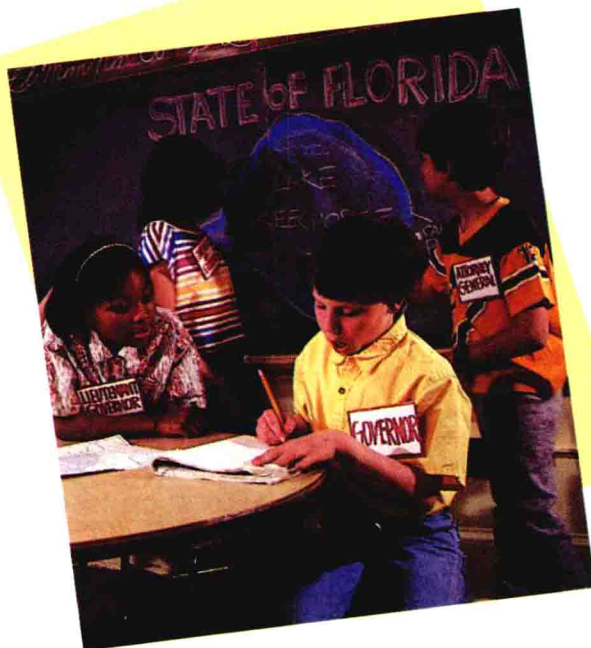
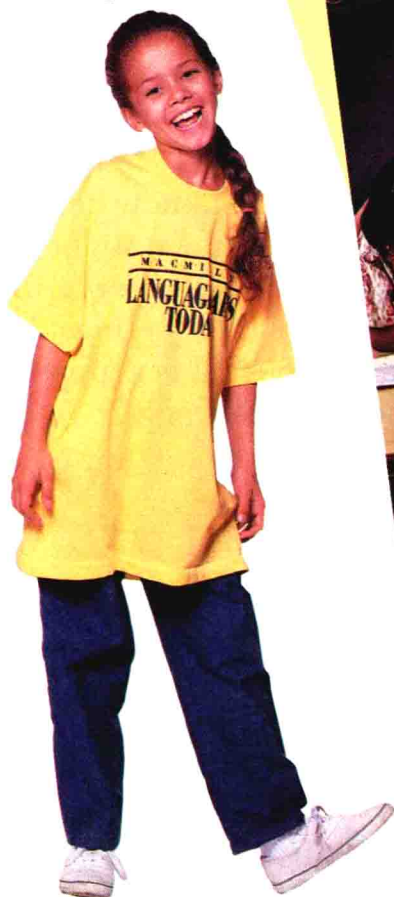
JOURNAL

Personally, I don't know how I'd keep all my ideas straight without my journal. I write in it every day—facts, thoughts, feelings. I draw pictures, too. A journal is a great place to keep track of what you've learned.

**A journal is
a writer's
best friend.**

How does
working
with a
group help?

Writing doesn't have to be something that you do alone. I get lots of ideas when I work with my classmates. During group writing, we write and conference together. When it's time to write on my own, I'm all warmed up and ready to go.



Writing together
builds confidence;
conferences get
the ideas flowing.

How do thinking and writing go together?



I really give my brain a workout when I write. I can't help it. To write, you have to think about many things: sequence; main idea; beginning, middle, and end; likenesses and differences.

**Writing is thinking
on paper.**

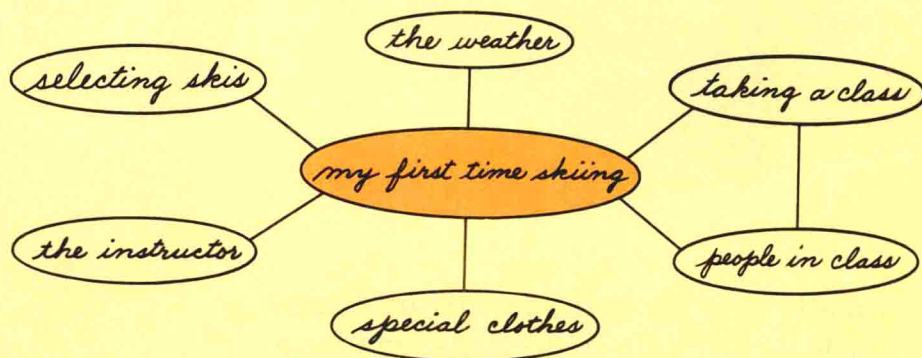


What is the writing process, and how will it help me?

Writing isn't something that just happens 1-2-3. It takes time to write. The writing process allows me the time I need.

Prewrite

At this stage I can get ideas and plan my writing. I need to think about my purpose and audience. Graphic organizers can really help here.




Write a First Draft

This is the stage when I overcome the “blank paper blues.” I don’t let small mistakes hold me up. I like this stage because I finally get to *see* what I think. I guess that’s what it means to be a writer.

Don't tell anyone, but I feel most like a writer when I revise. It's such a thrill to be in control!

Revise

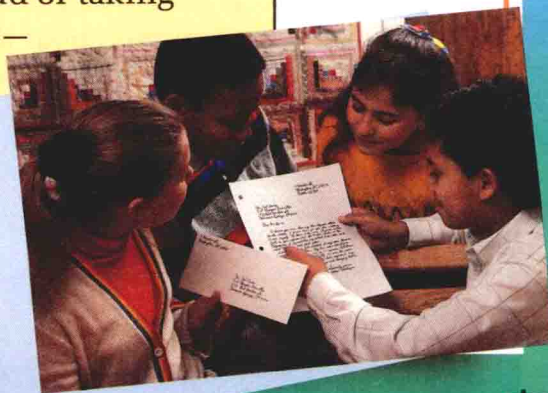
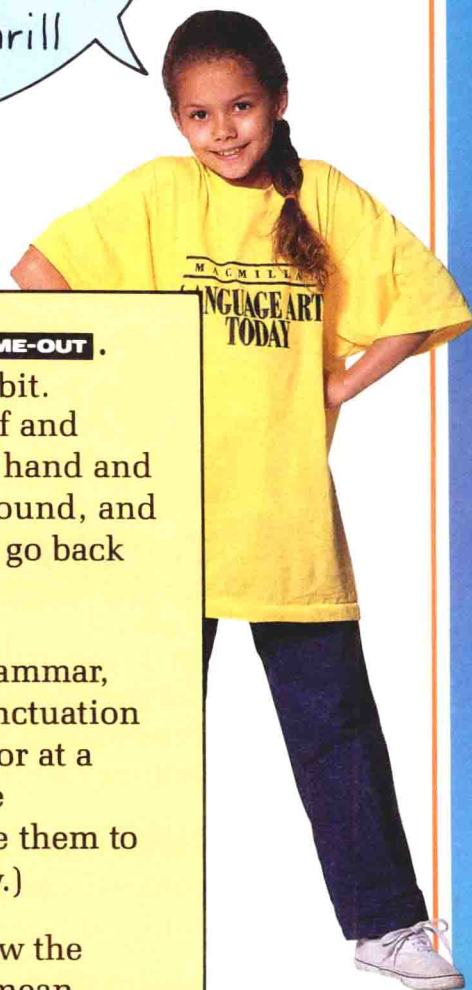
Before I revise, I take some  **TIME-OUT**. I need to let my writing settle a bit. Then I read my writing to myself and to a friend. I then take pencil in hand and go to it. I add, take out, move around, and combine some sentences. I even go back to prewriting for more ideas.

Proofread

During this stage, I fix all my grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation mistakes. I proofread for one error at a time. (Take my advice. Learn the proofreading marks. You can use them to make changes simply and easily.)

Publish

I knew I was an author when I saw the word “publish.” Publishing can mean reading your writing out loud or taking it home to show your family—anything that involves sharing your writing with your audience.



UNIT

1



Sentences

In Unit 1 you will learn about sentences. There are many kinds of sentences. Some sentences ask questions, and some sentences express strong feeling. All sentences help you to communicate with others.

Discuss Read the poem on the opposite page. The poet uses poetry to communicate with others. What does the poem communicate to you?

Creative Expression The theme of this unit is Surprises. What surprises have you received lately? Write a few sentences to tell about a surprise. You may want to illustrate your sentences. Write your sentences in your journal.



THEME: **SURPRISES**

Language Study



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AWARD WINNING
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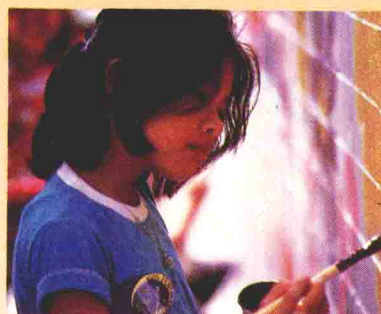
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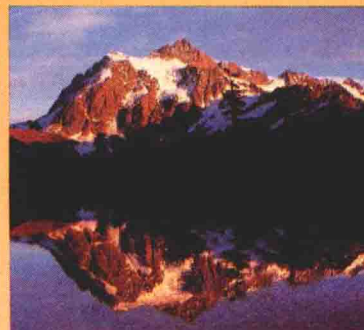
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