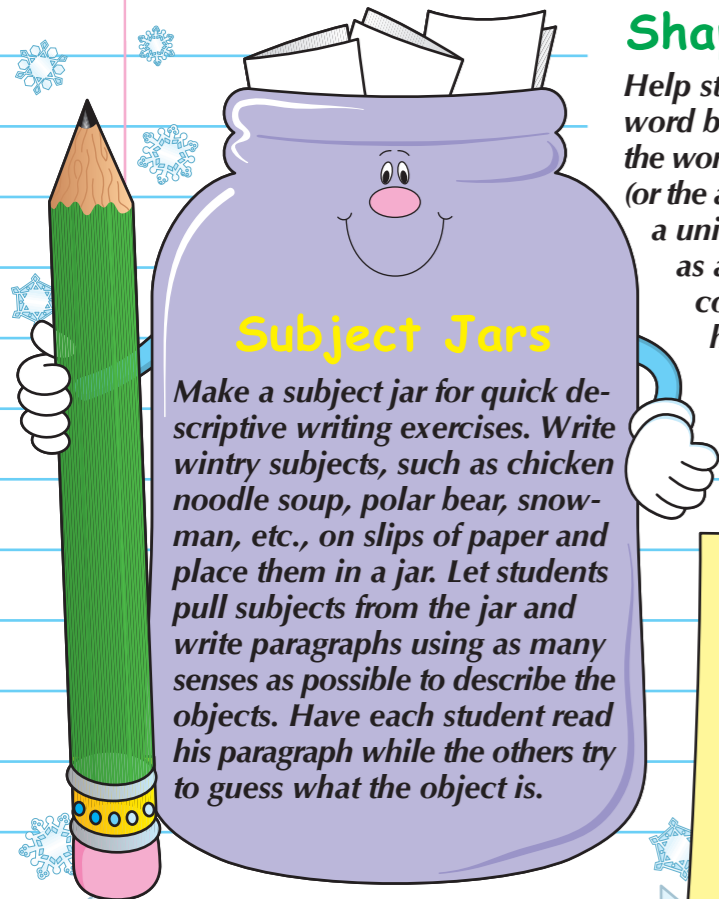


JANUARY Writing Activities

What do new beginnings, snowflakes, and wintry weather have in common? They all occur in January! These “cool” ideas are sure to have your students writing up a storm!

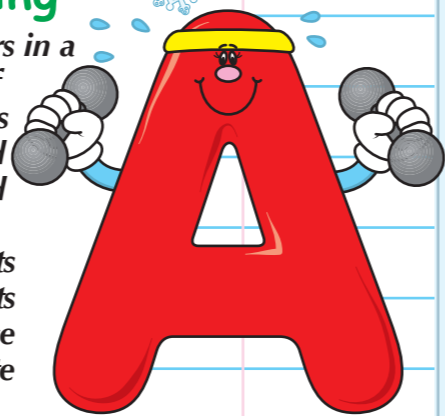


Subject Jars

Make a subject jar for quick descriptive writing exercises. Write wintry subjects, such as chicken noodle soup, polar bear, snowman, etc., on slips of paper and place them in a jar. Let students pull subjects from the jar and write paragraphs using as many senses as possible to describe the objects. Have each student read his paragraph while the others try to guess what the object is.

Shape up for Spelling

Help students remember the letters in a word by pointing out the shape of the word. Ascenders and descenders (or the absence of them) give a word a unique shape that can be used as a cue to recognizing the correct spelling. After students have written their spelling lists for the week, have them trace around each word and note the shape.

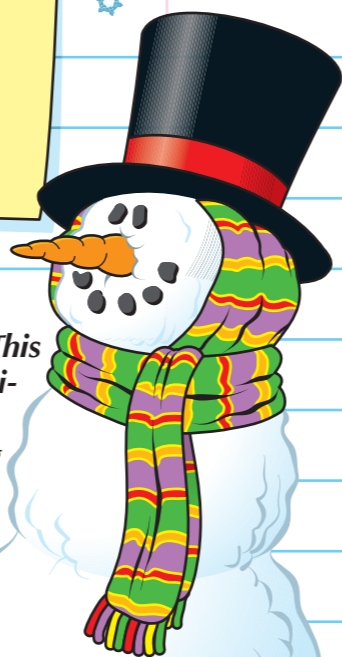


Word Bank Words

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| snowflake | icicle |
| snowman | mittens |
| scarf | shiver |
| boots | chilly |
| ski | frozen |
| cocoa | winter |
| sled | ice skate |

It's a Snow Day!

What if today was a snow day? This may be a real or imagined possibility for your area, but either way, students will enjoy writing about creative and fun ways to spend a day off from school.



Guess What Happened to Me?!

The new year gets people thinking about what they did not complete during the last year. Make these new year reflections more positive by having students write a narrative about the best thing that happened to them in the last year. Let students share their experiences in small groups and vote on whose experience was best.



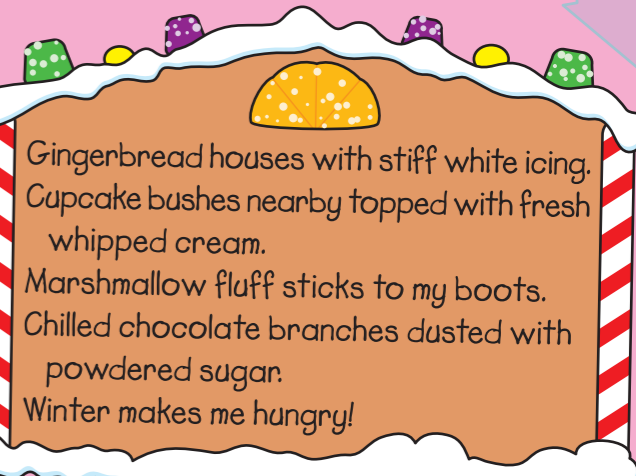
Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Mother Nature is unpredictable in the winter. Sometimes she sends lots of snow and sometimes none at all. Have students write to Mother Nature asking for certain types of weather. Let students give reasons in their letters for their requests and include polite thank-yous for Mother Nature's time.



Snowy Poems

Encourage students to use figurative language in their poetry. Look outside at objects covered with snow and ice (or look at a snowy scene in a picture). Instead of describing the snow as white or pretty, have students think about what an object covered with snow looks like. For example, a bush covered in snow may look like a cupcake frosted with fresh whipped cream. Have students write snowy poems so that each line describes the landscape topped off with snow.



Gingerbread houses with stiff white icing.
Cupcake bushes nearby topped with fresh whipped cream.
Marshmallow fluff sticks to my boots.
Chilled chocolate branches dusted with powdered sugar.
Winter makes me hungry!

What Would a Snowflake Say?

Imagine whirling, twirling, and dancing to Earth from an icy snow cloud high in the sky. Have students write snowflake adventure stories that tell about the journey a snowflake makes from cloud to ground. Students can choose to write their stories in first person, as if they are the snowflakes, or from another perspective, such as a narrator, a bird, a cloud, etc.



Positively Editing

When students are editing each others' stories, they often just point out things that are wrong. This can create negative feelings about writing and revising and can cause students to become discouraged. One way to make the editing process more pleasant and criticism more easily accepted is to have students begin and end their editorial comments on a positive note. Students may say they enjoyed the story or that a particular part was funny.

