

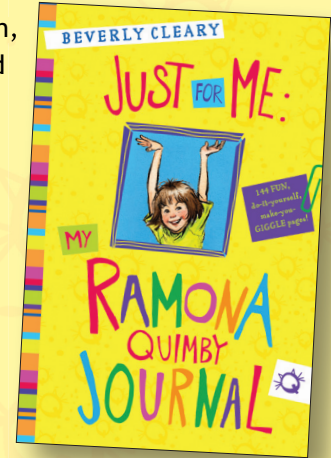


D.E.A.R.

KEEPING A JOURNAL

Keeping a journal can be both entertaining and rewarding for students; in addition, journal writing can increase students' writing fluency and enhance vocabulary and grammar skills. Here are some helpful tips to get started:

1. Let your students select the type of journal they want to use: spiral or composition notebook, leather-bound journal, or blank journal that can be decorated.
2. Provide journal prompts to make it easier for students to find something to write about. Create a journal "idea jar" to help students select a topic. Write different prompts on separate pieces of bright-colored paper, then fold and place them in a large jar. Students can reach into the jar and select one to begin their writing. See prompts/ideas below.



WRITING PROMPTS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| FRIENDS | SCHOOL | FEARS |
| FAMILY | ENEMIES | DREAMS |
| FAVORITE THINGS | VACATIONS | WORRIES |
| PETS | TOYS | NICKNAMES |
| GOALS | HOLIDAYS | PRESENTS GIVEN |
| MEMORIES | HOBBIES | PRESENTS RECEIVED |
| INJURIES | TEACHERS | SUCCESSES |

3. Teach students how to use images and descriptions in their writing so that they paint a picture using words in each entry.
4. Find ways to value students' writing. Give them opportunities to share their journal entries with a partner, small group, or the class; receive written feedback from the teacher; and select and revise a favorite journal entry.

CCSS – W.3.1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
 W.3.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
 Activities prepared by Susan Geye, Coordinator of Library Services, Everman, Texas.

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