

Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 3:
Writing Begins with Original Ideas

www.WordsThatCook.org

About Words That Cook!

Words That Cook! is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Our products and services include educational television programming and DVDs, Web resources, accredited courseware and training, and family literacy publications.

About Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

Originating as a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide, [Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books](#) is the winner of the *International Reading Association 2005 Broadcast Media Award for Television* and is now available in DVD format.

This series celebrates the joy of reading, the art of writing, the wonder of storytelling and the magic of wordplay through a combination of interviews and live action spiced up with animated fun.

Professionals, experts, parents and children model and discuss enjoyable and practical techniques for enriching literacy experiences. Designed for educators and parents of children ages 0-12, each DVD includes an original 30-minute episode, comprised of five or six related segments, plus bonus guest material and messages from the executive producers.

About this Viewing & Workshop Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the DVD, whether you are nurturing family literacy in your home, center or school.

With the guide, you can review the many family literacy suggestions presented throughout the show, read summaries of recommended books and engage in suggested activities.

If you are a professional planning workshops for others, you'll find helpful show overview and summary information as well as appropriate discussion prompts for both parent workshops and professional staff development.

The grade levels specified for each DVD chapter and extra indicate the grades to which the topics and modeled strategies apply. When children are featured, the *italicized* grade level indicates the range into which those children fall. If other grade levels are also listed, the topics and modeled strategies are appropriate for these grades as well.

By watching, discussing and using the strategies modeled in the show, we hope you and your family, or the families you serve, will be empowered to create dynamic and exciting reading and writing experiences for children.

Summary of Show 3: Writing Begins with Original Ideas

Writing can seem like a chore, especially if it's for school work, but this program shows just how fun writing can be. Using child-made toys, hobbies, scribbles, computers and art, the guests on this show share simple methods for inspiring children to write for pleasure.

Show 3 Outline

Show Intro (length - 1:43)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual kitchen, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Writing Begins with Original Ideas*.

Chapter 1: Writing Parties (length - 1:24)

Guest(s): Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Author and Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Education

Location: Mark's Meadow School

Grade Level(s): *Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): writing parties; doing collaborative or partnered writing with children and adults; using household items to create objects that inspire story ideas; integrating art and writing; using books, conversation and peer writing as springboards to writing

Modeled Strategies: children and adults working collaboratively on creative writing projects; transcribing children's dictated stories; generating ideas for writing by asking questions; setting up a rich writing environment; brainstorming alternate solutions to dilemmas in familiar stories

Recipes for Success™:

Throw a writing party

Act as a catalyst to get writing going

Use stories and discussions

Mix up the age groups

Chapter 2: Making Writing Active (length - 1:06)

Guest(s): Ruth-Ellen Verock O'Loughlin, Author

Location: Mark's Meadow School

Grade Level(s): *Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): incorporating physical activity into the writing process; generating writing ideas from three-dimensional character models

Modeled Strategies: creating three-dimensional character models from everyday items; transcribing children's dictated stories; sharing and role-playing story ideas across age levels; using chart paper to sketch out story ideas (in words and pictures) to share in group settings

Recipes for Success:

Get kids' hands moving

Write down kids' stories

Make original action figures

Chapter 3: Guiding Children's Creative Writing (length – 2:14)

Guest(s): Dr. Sharon A. Edwards, Author and K-3 Teacher

Location: Mark's Meadow School

Grade Level(s): *Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): parents partnering with children to create writing opportunities; talking out writing ideas; using questions to guide children's writing

Modeled Strategies: conversing and sharing writing ideas; using chart paper to sketch out story ideas (in words and pictures) to share in group settings; letting children share and explain their writing ideas

Recipes for Success:

Have conversations about ideas

Act as a reporter to spark ideas

Chapter 4: Homemade Magazines (length – 3:03)

Guest(s): Josephine and Geena, Emerging Writers

Location: Elm Bank Reservation

Grade Level(s): *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): designing homemade magazines; using artwork as inspiration for writing; original writing about hobbies and interests; writing clubs; sharing or "publishing" children's writing

Recipes for Success:

Look for local writing clubs

Help kids publish original work

Chapter 5: More to Scribbles Than Meets the Eye (length – 1:42)

Guest(s): Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producer, with Honey the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

Location: Morse Institute Library Children's Room

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

Topic(s): recognizing scribbles as artwork and/or writing; making homemade books with stickers; integrating children's artwork into homemade books; commenting on and asking questions about children's scribbles; captioning children's scribbles with their descriptions or explanations; "publishing" children's writing

Modeled Strategies: integrating children's artwork into homemade books; commenting on and asking questions about children's scribbles; captioning children's scribbles with their descriptions or explanations

Recipes for Success:

Start with art around stickers

Write down what's happening

Read original books over and over

Chapter 6: Reading and Wordplay with Active Children (length – 4:07)

Guest(s): Matt Broman, Dad

Location: Studio

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; *Kindergarten – Grade 2*

Topic(s): getting active children to focus on reading; using humorous books with built-in tongue twisters; letting yourself make mistakes with tongue twisters; enjoying silly words and phrases; personalizing children's computers; creating nonsense words on the computer

Modeled Strategies: making mistakes with tongue twisters and laughing at yourself; creating nonsense words on the computer

Book(s): *Fox in Socks* by Dr. Seuss

Recipes for Success:

Have fun with silly words

Play with words on the computer

Chapter 7: Becoming a Cut-Paper Illustrator (length – 7:26)

Guest(s): Judith Moffatt, Children's Book Author/Illustrator and Instructor, Rhode Island School of Design

Location: Judith Moffatt's Art Studio

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): importance of childhood experiences with art and writing; encouraging children's creativity; supporting children's interests and hobbies; exploring nonfiction, novelty and craft books; pets as inspiration for writing and artwork

Modeled Strategies: demonstrating a technique; preparing materials in advance; referring to samples; guiding without taking over

Book(s): *Snakes* by Patricia Demuth; *Bats* by Joyce Milton; *Starry Nights*, *City Lights* and Read-and-Do Books: *Bugs*, *Valentines*, *Snow Shapes* by Judith Moffatt

Recipes for Success:

Collect interesting materials for art projects

Nonfiction books are great for kids

Look for unique books

Find and name objects in pictures

Mix arts and crafts with reading

Read directions with children

Select age-appropriate books

Help children be original

Assist, but don't take over

Show Recap/Close (length – 2:32)

Hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard review selected Recipes for Success and present the Recommended Book List.

Extra 1: A Word from Our Producers (length – 3:58)

Guest(s): Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producers

Topic(s): providing young children (ages 0-5) with appropriate writing tools; overview of show guests; writing boxes; “publishing” children’s writing; conventions of writing; impact of childhood experiences; new Words that Cook! production techniques; Miriam Marecek; “how-to” books on writing and art; the Words that Cook! Web site; *Read it Aloud! Tips, Tools & Techniques*™

Book(s): *Kids Have All the Write Stuff* by Dr. Sharon A. Edwards and Dr. Robert W. Maloy; *Ways of Writing with Young Kids* by Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Dr. Sharon A. Edwards and Ruth-Ellen Verock O’Loughlin

Extra 2: More Robert, Ruth & Sharon – “Keep Writing Going” (length – 1:52)

Guest(s): Ruth-Ellen Verock O’Loughlin, Author

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): sparking creativity and children’s imaginations; overcoming writer’s block using characters and interactive writing; incorporating physical activity into the writing process

Extra 3: More Robert, Ruth & Sharon – “WOW! Ways of Writing” (length – 1:50)

Guest(s): Dr. Sharon A. Edwards, Author and K-3 Teacher

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): redefining writing for adults; tuning in to children’s use of colorful, expressive language; writing down what children say

Book(s): *Ways of Writing with Young Kids* by Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Dr. Sharon A. Edwards and Ruth-Ellen Verock O’Loughlin

Extra 4: More Robert, Ruth & Sharon – “Write That Down” (length – 1:45)

Guest(s): Dr. Sharon A. Edwards, Author and K-3 Teacher

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): making a habit of writing down what children say; displaying and dignifying children’s writing; writing as communication

Extra 5: More Robert, Ruth & Sharon – “Make It Fun” (length – 3:02)

Guest(s): Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Author and Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Education

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): school achievement tests; learning and understanding conventions of writing; reframing writing terminology; approaching conventions of writing creatively

Book(s): *Ways of Writing with Young Kids* by Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Dr. Sharon A. Edwards and Ruth-Ellen Verock O’Loughlin

Extra 6: More Robert, Ruth & Sharon – “Throw a Writing Party” (length – 2:35)

Guest(s): Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Author and Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Education

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): writing parties that include children and adults of all ages; Frank Smith (literacy author/researcher) and “The Literacy Club”; publishing and celebrating children’s writing

Show 3 Recommended Book List

For Ages 0 to 3:

I Can Fingerpaint (Usborne Playtime series)

Written by Ray Gibson

Illustrated by Amanda Barlow

This is a perfect selection for children who enjoy the feel of paint and who would rather use their hands than a paintbrush. There’s nothing fancy here, just straightforward, illustrated step-by-step instructions for creating fingerpaint innovations. With these simple designs, children don’t need to have advanced fine motor skills in terms of hand and finger control as you guide them through each creative process. You and your kids will discover how one finger dipped in paint can craft Spotty Spiders or Cats and how a whole hand can make Rainbow Fish or An Angel. You can even paint with your knuckles! This book will make your child gleefully declare, “I can fingerpaint!”

My Dad is Awesome (My Relative series)

Written and Illustrated by Nick Butterworth

Dads do so many things that can seem ordinary to outsiders, but seen through the eyes of their children, they are truly awesome. Whether he’s carrying kids and pets on his back, cooking meals or acting as a one-man band, the dad in this book is strong, helpful and talented. The warm and humorous watercolor illustrations coupled with brief, descriptive phrases emphasize the distinctive talents of this father and will help your child identify and appreciate his own father’s unique abilities and gifts.

For Ages 3 to 6:

My Daddy and Me

Written by Jerry Spinelli

Illustrated by Seymour Chwast

In this charming and delightful portrait of a pup and his doggie dad, it’s easy to feel the excitement of Daddy’s arrival home from work every day. As the puppy tells us, “There are so many things to do!” Cheerful, childlike paintings bring to life a range of fun-filled activities like playing hide and seek, making cookies and planting tomatoes. This is one father and son team that clearly revels in the time they share, even when they’re doing ordinary, everyday tasks. The sweet little pup admits that sometimes Daddy comes home too tired to play or even “to stand up straight,” but that’s okay, too, because he always manages to deliver a bedtime lullaby. The book closes with this nightly ritual, and the final illustration reveals that this little pup’s dreams are filled with visions of Daddy.

Surprises (An I Can Read Book)

Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Illustrated by Megan Lloyd

It's never too soon to introduce children to the powerful world of poetry, and this book is perfect for doing just that. In this volume you will find nearly 40 short poems on familiar topics written by well-known poets, including Lee Bennett Hopkins himself. Recognizable subject matter is tackled through rich language in both rhyming and non-rhyming verse. The poems are grouped under six headings: Who to Pet; Creep, Crawl, Fly; At the Top of My Voice; Boats, Trains and Planes; Rain, Sun and Snow; and Good Night and convey admiration, love, humor and more. Throughout the book, the colorful language is complemented by bouncy, energetic drawings.

For Ages 6 to 9:

I Can Draw People (Usborne Playtime series)

Written by Ray Gibson

Illustrated by Amanda Barlow

Do you have a budding artist in your family or a child who thinks she can't draw well? In either case, this book is for you! Clear, step-by-step directions guide your children through the process for drawing a variety of characters; including A Pirate, A Queen, An Astronaut and An Ice Skater; with felt-tip pens and crayons. The instructions break down each figure into manageable parts. For example, to draw an astronaut, you start with the helmet, continue to the collar, the face, the body of the spacesuit and so on. For each person, additional drawing is suggested to place the figure in a setting with appropriate surroundings. A double-page spread on Faces provides steps for drawing a basic face and offers examples for adding such elements as wrinkles, freckles and glasses as well as for expressing emotions like anger and surprise. This book will not only bolster an emerging artist, but will also enable every child to feel more confident.

Making Mini-Books

Written by Sherri Haab

What better way to engage your child with reading and books than by reading about making books together? Opening pages address the basics of books and bookmaking tools in addition to offering pointers for common procedures in the bookmaking process. Laid out in a combination of text, photographs and illustrations, each project contains a list of needed materials and numbered steps that guide you to completion. Towards the back of the book, you will find the patterns and photographs referred to within the different projects as well as pages of assorted colored and textured papers you and your children can use. Unique packaging also accommodates some of the necessary tools, such as glue, paper fasteners, a burnisher and wiggle eyes. You and your children will learn how to create Accordion Books, Scroll Books, Necklace Books and more. Top Secret Books can be made from chocolate boxes, matchboxes, flashlights and candy or gum wrappers. Once you get started, there is no end to the types of wonderfully artistic mini-books you and your kids can make.

Martha Walks the Dog

Written and illustrated by Susan Meddaugh

In this fourth book in the Martha series, we find the protagonist pooch impressing people with her ability to speak (gained after eating alphabet soup) and happily frolicking with her canine buddies during her walks. She loves to scratch, sniff and play chase every day as she trots about, but on this day, something has changed. A new neighbor has moved in with his big, snarling, mean dog, Bob. Bob is always barking, and his gruff owner is always yelling at him, “Bad dog!” When Bob breaks free of his chain and chases down Martha, she scolds him with insults, which only seem to fuel his pursuit. They run into the yard where Martha’s talking parrot friend lives, and the parrot shares a phrase of praise that quickly calms Bob and teaches Martha about the transforming power of words and kindness. The light and airy watercolor illustrations reveal a wide range of human and animal emotions, as well as personalities and humor. The use of voice balloons to carry much of the dialogue lends a comic book feel to this and all of the delightful Martha books.

For Ages 9 to 12:

Amelia's Easy-as-Pie Drawing Guide

Written and illustrated by Marissa Moss

In her signature black and white composition notebook, Amelia once again shares her journal in a way that will inspire children to create their own. This unique how-to/sketch pad journal focuses on drawing in an approachable, user-friendly way – revealing how Amelia’s abilities have progressed over time and pointing out strategies like identifying basic shapes in subjects to use as starting points. The format inherently encourages interactivity: margins contain examples of drawings, and the middle of the pages is left blank for your child to fill. Amelia shares how she uses shapes, grids and even squiggles to create her art. She also demonstrates how to tackle more complex drawings in a step-by-step line of attack. Amelia’s drawings vary in subject matter and execution, but all of them are teeming with whimsy and originality and will surely motivate your children to explore their artistic side.

Max's Logbook

Written and illustrated by Marissa Moss

Max’s parents are scientists and since he wants to become one, too, he decides to create a scientific journal. Max tells us he got the idea for his logbook from a girl in his class, which readers familiar with Marisa Moss will immediately recognize as Amelia. Max fills his graph-paper logbook with drawings and words that depict experiments, inventions and comics. Exciting experiments include microwaving marshmallows (a particularly messy, mom-angering stunt) and testing how hot and cold water react to each other, while bold comics present the adventures of Alien Eraser. Amid all of his ideas, creations and funny drawings is the recurring theme of Max’s troubled home life. His parents seem to be fighting all the time, so Max dreams up problem-solving inventions like a “prevent-a-divorce machine” and an “electric promise prod.” Unfortunately, these ideas aren’t practical and Max will have to face the reality of his parents separating. What will happen to the family? Will Max have to choose between his parents or will he find a way to choose both of them?

There's a Frog in My Throat!

Written by Loreen Leedy and Pat Street

Illustrated by Amanda Barlow

Have you ever noticed how many animal sayings there are in the English language? These two authors certainly have, and they've pulled together more than 400 in this book to explore one particularly fun aspect of our colorful language. An introductory note defines the types of expressions found in the book: simile, metaphor, idiom and proverb. The sayings are grouped into such categories as Around the House (sayings involving pets), On the Wing (sayings involving birds and flying insects) and Under the Waves (sayings involving aquatic creatures). Most of the expressions will be familiar to native English speakers, but some are less recognizable and there are even a couple that are quite contemporary. Thankfully, meanings are provided for all of them. Ingenious illustrations combine color, action and humor to great effect and cleverly tie together larger images with smaller ones. The index will help you and your children find sayings about specific animals. This book offers terrific opportunities for enjoyment and laughter as your child learns more about the ins and outs of idiomatic English.

For Parents:

Drawing, Painting and Lettering (Usborne First Skills series)

Written by Anna Claybourne, Fiona Watt and Patricia Lovett

Illustrated by Terry Burton, Lindy Dark and Sue Stitt

This book combines three individual First Skills series titles into one. Through projects, you and your children will learn how to use a variety of pencils, pens, paints, brushes, drawing equipment and other materials to create your own works of art. Instructions for the vibrant and innovative projects are arranged sequentially and enhanced by helpful pictures that enable beginners to grasp essential skills and to enjoy honing their artistic technique over time. The wide range of topics include: what the numbers on pencils mean, understanding perspective, mixing new colors, making letters you can eat, designing your own alphabet and much more. This book will help you make art an enjoyable, collaborative family venture.

Ways of Writing with Young Kids

Written by Dr. Robert Maloy, Dr. Sharon Edwards and Ruth-Ellen Verock O'Loughlin

This approachable and practical guidebook is intended to help adults, both professionals and parents, to nurture the writing efforts of children in Kindergarten through third grade. Ideas and strategies for teaching children how to write creatively, conventionally and confidently are communicated through straightforward language, original activities and exercises, new perspectives on old conventions, examples of children's work and stories of adults and children writing together. A wide-ranging Preface addresses the book's features and major concepts and provides guidance for usage. Suggestions for creative ways of writing with kids, or "WOWs," are gathered under seven chapter umbrellas: Language, Communications, Poems, Stories, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. You don't have to follow and implement everything in this book in a linear manner: you can pick and choose what connects with children's interests or current schooling and run with it!

Suggested Literacy Activities

In 1995, the wife/educator and husband/Internet expert team of Susan and Jerry Jindrich launched the Chateau Meddybemps Web site (www.meddybemps.com) “To enable parents and teachers to help young children strengthen learning skills in unique and playful ways.” This site is chock full of fun and exciting ways to engage children in literacy and other learning adventures. For one way of generating writing with first- through fifth-graders, go to the Fun & Games section of this site, click on the Preschool & Primary link and then select the Young Writers Workshop link. Here you will find guidance on how you can help children create stories, including numerous printable Story Starter Workshop Pages that will get kids off and running. You can even submit children’s completed stories for possible publishing on the site.

Throw a writing party. Keep in mind that your “party” can include multiple pairings of preschool and school age children and adults of any age or just one adult-child pair. Plan and do a collaborative hands-on project that will become a natural springboard to writing. Some activity ideas are: creating characters out of modeling clay or making sock puppets; drawing or painting a particular scene, setting or environment or making a collage of words and pictures from magazine cuttings. Talk about the projects as they take shape. Discuss the characters, scenes or collages in ways that will generate story ideas: Who could this character be? Does he have special talents or powers? What kinds of animals or people could live in this environment? What types of activities would they do there? What is the theme of this collage? Transcribe your children’s answers and other comments and use these as the basis for a story you can write together.

Over time, you’re likely to amass quite a collection of your children’s writing that you will want to “publish.” Start by displaying it on a bulletin board, putting it up on the refrigerator or sharing it with family and friends through E-mail or regular mail. Preserve favorite selections by making books out of them – building actual sequential stories or simply archiving children’s work from a certain period of time. Encourage children to illustrate their stories. These homemade books will turn out to be treasured keepsakes in the years to come.

At the Discovery School Web site (http://di.lanccd.org/pages/Discovery_School) you will find some terrific tools for enlivening language with wordplay with children of all ages. Under the Favorites menu, click on the link for Brain Boosters and then click on the link for the Word and Letter Play category. There are more than 65 wordplay games to explore with children at home or in the classroom. Also under the Favorites menu, click on the link for Puzzlemaker. The resulting page lets you create puzzles online – from cryptograms to crosswords to word searches – using the words and clues you supply. Try creating puzzles using new vocabulary from the books you share and clues that connect to story content.

Additional Words That Cook Resources

Words That Cook develops resources for professionals and parents that help to motivate and inspire children to learn and to love reading, writing, storytelling and wordplay. At our Web site (www.WordsThatCook.org) under Free Resources, you will find valuable information derived from the television series, including activity and additional reading ideas connected to each recommended book. Also at the Marketplace of our site, you can learn more about our other literacy-related products and services.

For Professionals

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for teacher/staff workshops

Discuss ways to create a writing party atmosphere within each classroom or age group.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Separate into small groups of participants. Have each group create a story or tongue twister based on a common object such as a spoon, a crayon, etc. Share the stories and/or tongue twisters with the whole group.

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

What type of creative or artistic projects could you do with your children to use as springboards to writing?

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Either in small groups or as a whole, create character models with supplied materials. Have each group or participant write a short story based on the character models or write character descriptions that could lead to stories. Share the stories or character descriptions with the whole group.

When working with ESL/ELL families, help them to understand the value of learning and applying literacy strategies in their primary language. Encourage them to also apply strategies in English if it is comfortable and if the adult has developed the English language skills to sufficiently challenge their child.

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