

# Language

Do you like to play with yo-yos? \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have learned the basic moves, yo-yos are very easy to work.

Many people like to do tricks with yo-yos.

These include:

- ❖ Walk the Dog
- ❖ Breakaway
- ❖ The Pinwheel
- ❖ Rock the Cradle
- ❖ Around the Corner
- ❖ Trapeze Walker

## Yo-Yo Fun Facts!

Yo-yos have been around since 500BC.

They may have been invented in Greece or the Philippines.

The yo-yo was the first toy to be brought onto a spaceship.

One appeal of the yo-yo is its name. The name yo-yo was first used in a Filipino dictionary in 1860. The repetition of a sound like this is called reduplication.

Here are some other examples of reduplication:

so-so      Dada      Mama      criss-cross

tick-tock      see-saw      zig-zag      pitter-patter

Write a short story using as many reduplication words as you can:

---

---

---

---

On the back, draw a picture from your story.

# Pen Pals



Do you have a pen pal? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had a pen pal in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to have one in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

Of course, you can always have more than one pen pal!

Having a pen pal to write to can give you a good opportunity to practice your writing skills. You might learn about what life is like in another part of the country, or even in another part of the world. You could get to know a person whose background is very different from yours.

So, how do you begin a pen-pal relationship?

1. Ask your teacher or parents to help you connect with a pen pal.
2. Get a paper, pencil, envelope, and stamp.
3. Introduce yourself:
  - ✓ Your name
  - ✓ The grade are you in
  - ✓ What you like to do
  - ✓ What life is like where you live
  - ✓ Ask questions about those same things for the pen pal.
4. When you get a response, ask follow up questions about things the person tells you about their life.

On the back, start drafting your first pen pal letter.

# Silly Story



What is the last appliance in your kitchen you touched?

(A) \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite flower? (B) \_\_\_\_\_

What is your least favorite type of math?

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

What type of clothing do you like to wear the most often?

(D) \_\_\_\_\_

What is a hobby or skill you wish you could do?

(E) \_\_\_\_\_

Write your first name backwards

(F) \_\_\_\_\_

Now...write a story about a superhero named (F)

\_\_\_\_\_ who got their powers by accidentally swallowing a (B) \_\_\_\_\_. Now

this person can do (E) \_\_\_\_\_

to an extreme level, but their weakness is (C)

\_\_\_\_\_, and their arch nemesis, who has

the power of a (A) \_\_\_\_\_ knows

how to use it against them.

On the back, draw a picture of your story.

## Combination Words



Do you feel fantabulous today? Do you have a ginormous project coming up? Do you just need to chillax?

If some of those words sound made up to you...it's because they are! Blending synonyms for emphasis is a fairly recent trend in the English language. Here are their origins:

Gigantic + enormous = ginormous

Fantastic + fabulous = fantabulous

Chill + relax = chillax

Guess + estimate = guesstimate

Think of two synonyms (words that mean the same or almost the same thing):

---

Now combine them to create a word of your own:

---

Sometimes antonyms or unrelated words get combined to create new words:

Friend + enemy = frenemy

Staying at home + vacation = staycation

Hungry + angry = hangry

Think of two antonyms (opposites) or unrelated words:

---

Now combine them to create a word of your own:

---

On the back, draw a picture of what one of your new words means.

## Your Home Is Upside Down!

Imagine you wake up one morning and discover that your home is upside down. What do you see around your room?

---

---

You go into the bathroom and discover that:

---

---

When you enter the kitchen, you're shocked to find:

---

---

The most difficult thing about getting from one part of your upside-down house to another is:

---

---

When your friends come over, how do you explain your whole home being upside down to them?

---

---

On the back draw a picture of your upside-down home.



## Libraries

Millions of Americans visit their local libraries every week.  
Have you been this week? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a library card? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, ask an adult at home to help you get one. They're free and give you so many benefits! But libraries offer more than free books to borrow. Many branches also have free:

- ❖ Movies and music to borrow
- ❖ Audio books and e-books
- ❖ Playdates in summer
- ❖ Theater
- ❖ Board games
- ❖ Art classes
- ❖ Chess classes
- ❖ Storytime
- ❖ Puzzle swaps
- ❖ Scavenger hunts

What do you most like to do in a library?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see libraries have more of?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you know that the first public library was founded in 330BC? It was a famous library in Alexandria, Egypt, a city founded by, Alexander the Great. Benjamin Franklin started the first subscription library in the colonies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On the back, draw a picture of yourself doing something fun at the library.

# Handwriting

## How do you prefer to write:

- Print
- Cursive
- Typing

Which do you think is easiest to read:

- Print
- Cursive
- Typing

National Handwriting Day was started in 1977 as a reaction to the fear that people would forget how to write by hand with the invention of typing. That was almost 50 years ago. Do you think that people will forget how to write by hand?

# Have you ever read handwriting

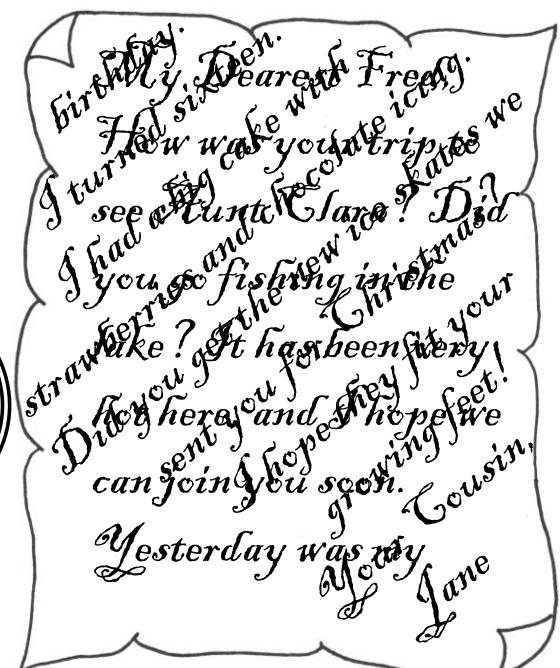
from long ago? \_\_\_\_\_ It might seem impossible to read. Handwriting (print and cursive) has changed a lot over the last two hundred years. For one thing, to save paper, people used to write letters horizontally, and then write on top of them at a diagonal, like this:

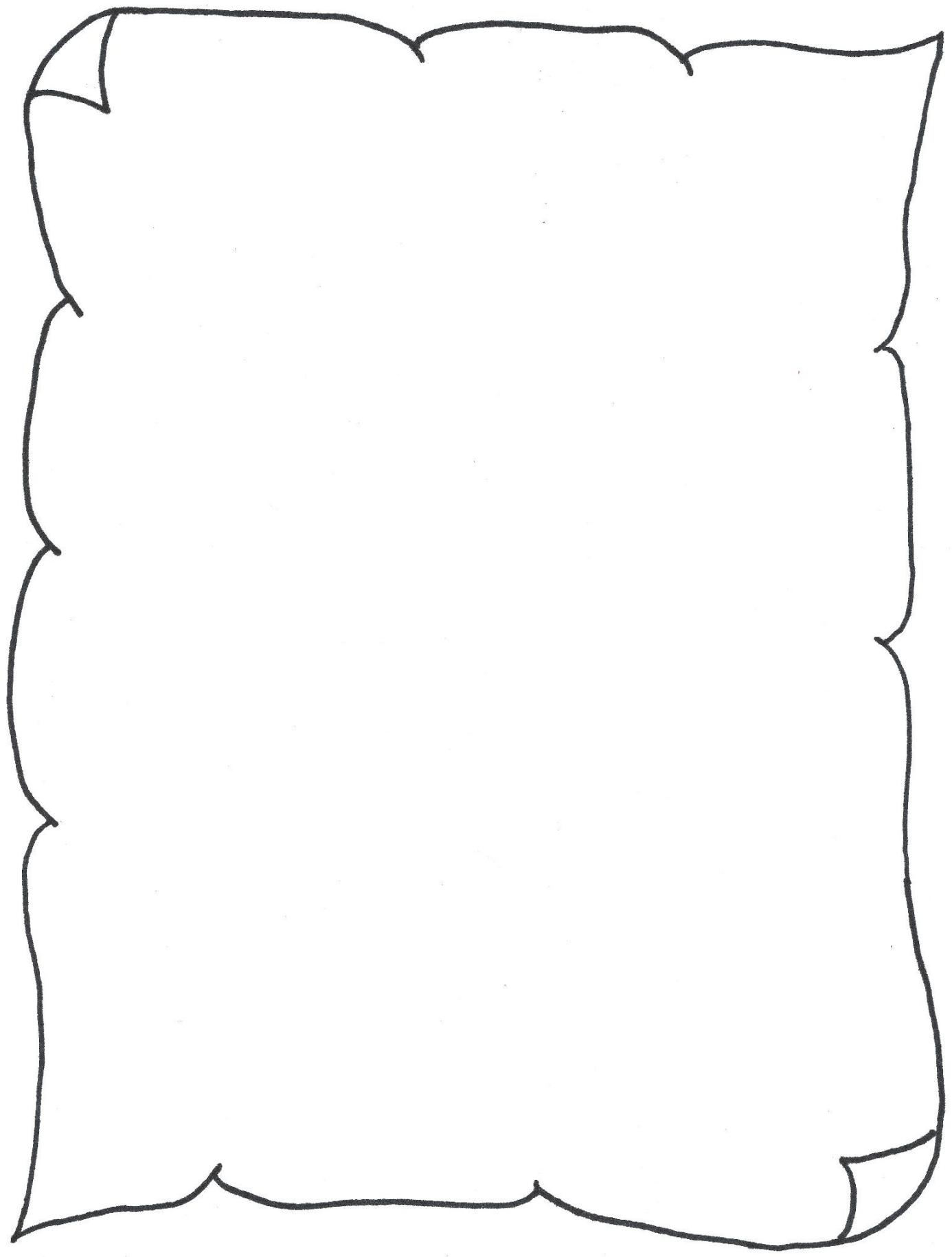
# Can you read it?

# What are all the places people still use handwriting today?

- Sticky notes
- Grocery lists
- Birthday cards
- Thank-you notes

On the back try to write a letter like this one.





# Don't Be an Oxymoron!

Do you know what an oxymoron is? \_\_\_\_\_

It's not an insult, even though it might sound like one. An oxymoron is a word or phrase that sounds like it contradicts itself. That doesn't mean that it does contradict itself, just that it sounds a bit odd.

Here are some oxymorons:

- Bittersweet
- Old news
- Plastic silverware
- Jumbo shrimp
- Awfully good
- Clearly misunderstood
- Crash landing
- Growing smaller
- Guest host
- Only choice
- Found missing
- Freezer burn
- Seriously funny
- Good grief

Make up your own oxymoron. Think about some words that sound like opposites, but could actually go together in some way.

OR choose one of the oxymorons above and explain why it sounds like a contradiction.

---

---

---

On the back draw a picture of what your oxymoron sounds like it is describing.

# What a Pun!

Do you like puns? \_\_\_\_\_ What is a pun? It is a joke that is based on words sounding like something else.

Many restaurants have food items on their menus with pun names, like a pasta dish called “Peas on Earth,” or a smoothie called “Berry Nice.”

Imagine you have to come up with pun names for new items on a menu. Think about what ingredients this particular item would have that would help with making pun names:

Pizza: \_\_\_\_\_

Tacos: \_\_\_\_\_

Donut: \_\_\_\_\_

Ice Cream: \_\_\_\_\_

Pasta: \_\_\_\_\_

Smoothie: \_\_\_\_\_

On the back draw a picture of one of the menu items.



# Make a Word Search with Your Classmates' Names!

Write your classmates' names forward, backward, down, up, and diagonally (up, down, backward & forward). Then, fill in the leftover boxes with random letters.

A blank 10x10 grid of black lines on a white background. The grid consists of 9 horizontal rows and 9 vertical columns, creating a total of 81 equal-sized squares. The lines are thin and black, with no additional markings or text.

# Make Up a Tongue Twister!

Do you like tongue twisters? They are fun to say and even more fun to challenges someone else to do. All you need are several words that begin with the same sound. Not all sounds are spelled the same. Here are some words that can be used in your tongue twister:

**L:** Larry, Lupe, Lucy, Linda, Ling, lucky, lollipop, licks, lunges, lovely, lonely, laughing, leaps, listens, likes, limbo, laryngitis,

**F/PH:** Fred, Frida, Frank, Felipe, Phoebe, phony, phones, flips, flowers, funny, photo, phase, fantastic, philosophy

**S/C/SC:** Sarah, Cecilia, Cyrus, Samantha, Sergio, sergeant, serpent, cylinder, cycle, scent, scene, sips, salad, soup, sobs

**N/KN:** Ned, Nellie, Nora, Naomi, Natsuki, nagging, nest, nudges, knows, knee, knot, knuckle, nothing, nobody, none

**My Tongue Twister:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

On the back draw a picture from your tongue twister.

# Create an Acronym!

Do you know what an acronym is? It's an abbreviation of the name of an organization, or other group of words, that can be pronounced like a real word.

## Abbreviations that are Acronyms:

NASA:

**ASAP**

## National

As

Aerodynamics and

Soon

## Space

As

## Administration

# Possible

## Regular

## Abbreviations:

- BBB
- FBI
- CIA
- LOL
- FYI

If you created an organization or club, what name could you give it that could be an acronym? Try writing each word on a line to help you visualize your acronym. You don't have to count small words unless it helps you.

**(You don't need to use all of these lines.)**

**On the back draw a picture of your group's logo.**

# Combine Two Fairy Tales

What is your favorite fairy tale? \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some of the most famous ones:

- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Little Red Riding Hood
- The Ugly Duckling
- Hansel & Gretel
- Goldilocks & the 3 Bears
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The 3 Little Pigs
- Cinderella
- Sleeping Beauty
- Rapunzel

Choose two of these stories (or one and your favorite) to create a brand-new hybrid fairy tale.

Once upon a time... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

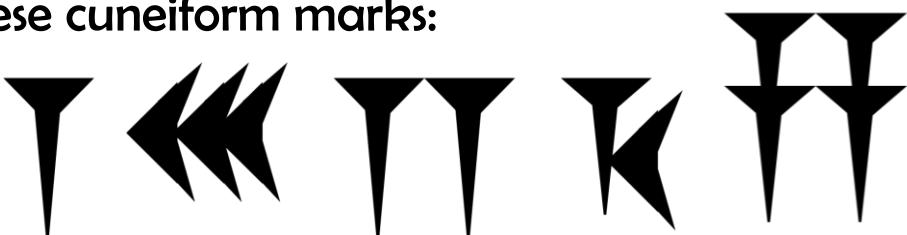
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On the back draw a picture of a scene from your fairy tale.

# Writing Books

Writing has been used since 3,000 BC by the ancient Mesopotamians. The first book ever written (as far as historians know) is the Epic of Gilgamesh, from Sumer, around 2,000 BC. They used a form of writing called cuneiform that was made by pressing into a clay tablet. Press your pencil sideways to try copying these cuneiform marks:



The Egyptians developed a form of writing called hieroglyphics which they wrote on papyrus scrolls. Try tracing these hieroglyphs.



For centuries, books were written by hand. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in Germany in 1440. The first book ever printed was a copy of the Bible. In 1801 Pellegrino Turri invented the first typewriter and in 1977 the first home computer was sold.

Circle how you would prefer to write a book:

cuneiform      hieroglyphs      by hand      typewriter      computer

On the back, draw a cover for your own book and give it a title.

# Palindromes

Do you know what a palindrome is? It is a word, name, number, or sentences that is spelled the same forward and backward. The word palindrome actually means “running back.” Some palindromes you might know are:

- taco cat
- noon
- civic
- wow
- mom
- deed
- racecar
- level
- peep
- kayak
- Anna
- dad

## Number palindromes:

9009  
42755724  
6381001836  
123321

Here are some palindrome phrases and sentences:

Never odd or even.      Don't nod.      Step on no pets.

If you had a palindrome name, what would it be:

---

Write a number that is a palindrome. The longer, the better:

---

Try to make up your own palindrome sentence:

---

Can you think of a year in recent history (or in the future) that is a palindrome? \_\_\_\_\_

---

On the back draw a picture of yourself running back.

# Read a Book



Today is a good day to appreciate books and make time to read them. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you enjoy reading? \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate how many books you have read in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your THREE favorite books of all time?

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about this book? \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about this book? \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about this book? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite book character from any book you have ever read (even if they are not from one of your favorite books)? \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this character interesting to read about? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most interesting setting of any book you have ever read? \_\_\_\_\_

Number each genre from favorite (1) to least favorite (6):

realistic fiction       fantasy       science fiction  
 animal stories       non-fiction       mystery

On the back, draw a picture of your favorite moment from a book.

# Book Challenge

What is your favorite genre to read?

realistic fiction  
 science fiction  
 non-fiction  
 sports

fantasy  
 animal stories  
 mystery  
 \_\_\_\_\_

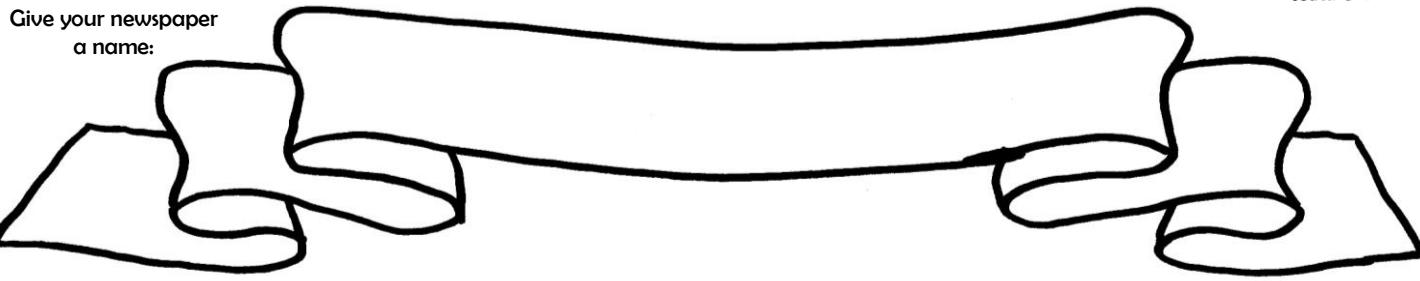
Do you often find yourself reading the same type of book over and over again? Give yourself a challenge this year. Ask your classmates for their favorite books in the genres you rarely or never read. You might find a new favorite!

Genre	Recommendations:

On the back draw a scene from a book you are recommending to someone else.

# Create a Newspaper Front Page

Give your newspaper a name:



Draw a picture of your lead story here:

Write about the most interesting thing that happened this week here:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Tell about a movie you have recently seen here:

## Movie Review:



What has the weather been lately?

## Weather:

**Mon:**

**Tues:**

**Wed:**

**Thurs:**

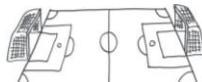
**Fri:**

**Sat:**

**Sun:**

Tell about a game you watched or played in here:

## SPORTS UPDATE:



---

---

---

---

## Write a How-To Book

How-To books are very popular. They vary greatly in subjects, but all have one thing in common: the author is an expert on the subject and is explaining it step-by-step to the reader. Have you ever read a how-to book? \_\_\_\_\_

What was it called? \_\_\_\_\_

The most popular how-to book topics are:

- Eating healthy
- Being organized
- Cooking
- Home improvement
- Exercising
- Taking care of money

If you wrote a how-to book, what would it be about?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write your synopsis for an editor here:

How to \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 6 \_\_\_\_\_

On the back, draw a picture of the cover of your book.

## Articles

**Write a short story without using “a,” “the,” or “an.”**

“A,” “the,” and “an” are called articles. We use them a lot.

## Can you get away with replacing them?

**Here are some words you can use instead:**

my	some	several
many	their	your
our	one	his
her	somebody's	any number

**Write a short story without the letter E.**  
**To help you out, here are some words that do not use the letter E:**

I	a	is/am	has/had
do/did	pitch	yawn	will/would
floor	roll	grown	world
miss	unicorn	thrill	spill
canvas	crib	comb	dog
cat	fly	turn	up
down	bad	good	saw
and	all	air	culprit

**On the back, draw a picture from your story.**