

Academy for Writers



A program by Sigmund Brouwer.

A Complete Curriculum!

The Academy for Writers curriculum is driven by the importance of motivation. When your child has a great story to share, he or she is willing to do the work that writing requires. (See the letter to parents for more about why story is the best engine for literacy.) And by putting those stories on paper, your child's literacy skills improve quickly. Each lively and entertaining video is 5-10 minutes long, with suggested activities to take up another 30 minutes or so. It means you can turn your living room into a classroom situation, and schedule the lessons at your convenience.

Renowned author Sigmund Brouwer uses techniques and ways of sharing his story philosophy that have proven to work for even the most reluctant of writers. He spends the first seven lessons (Section 1) sharing with your child the power of story — challenging them to become Story Ninjas — and shows them the secrets of developing a great story. The next seven lessons (Section 2) move on to ways to make writing better so that the reader will enjoy the story even more. After that, seven lessons (Section 3) on editing and revising.

When your child completes all of the first 21 lessons (Story Ninja moves), he or she is invited to apply all of the fun knowledge to the writing of a story. In the next seven lessons (Section 4), Sigmund guides them through the process to a single polished story that you and your child can celebrate.

The final seven lessons (Section 5) show your child how to use all of the skills and confidence to complete a wonderful memoir story based on an interview with a grandparent.

1. Lessons on developing a story (daydreaming and structuring a story before you write a word)

1. How to use stories to have fun messing with people
2. Making sure every story is appropriate for the intended audience
3. Going into a story with a specific (and fun) goal
4. How to get amazing ideas for a story
5. The easiest way to begin any story
6. Story grabbers
7. How to make sure your reader stays hooked the entire story

2. Lessons on putting the story onto paper (the cool delivery system of the alphabet)

1. Writing is a way to take control of someone's thoughts!
2. The difference between story and writing — why you want to be good at both
3. The fun of choosing Story Ninja words
4. Descriptive words have two purposes — you get to mess with your readers's emotions
5. Take the pain out of writing with one very simple trick
6. Why worry about mistakes? (for now)
7. Why it's not your fault when you mess up with spelling

3. Lessons on editing and revising (the better your writing looks, the more readers enjoy your story)

1. The difference between editing and revising
2. Use the cool-down process to make edits and revisions a snap
3. Hang on. You mean we don't need to edit EVERYTHING?
4. Turn the editing process into a game.
5. How a bracelet can help your story make total sense
6. Oh right. That spelling thing.
7. Meaning what you say, and saying what you mean.

4. Seven Story Ninja Moves To Your Own Story (now you get to use all your story ninja tricks)

1. Take Your Snapshot (who, what, where, when)
2. Begin the Xs and Os elimination contest (easy way to structure a story through daydreaming)
3. Bead Your Bracelet (sequence the events)
4. Turn Your Bracelet Into A Caterpillar (give your story legs by using details)
5. Quack, Quack, Quack (rehearse the story before writing a single word)
6. Slop, Slop, Slop (don't worry about mistakes in your first draft)
7. Polish, Polish, Polish (great hacks to editing a story)

5. The Chapters of Our Lives

1. The Interview (includes a letter to send to your grandparent explaining the project)
2. Bead the Bracelet and Turn It Into A Caterpillar (quick review)
3. Here's the form to fill (an easy template to help you get that first draft on paper)
4. The perfect opening — ways to write a great first paragraph
5. Layer caking — the secret to making sure your reader can't put down your writing
6. Revisions — how to get someone else to do the hard work for you
7. Publish your story!

