

Maintaining Motivation and Engagement in Reading and Writing

Ryerson Elementary

PTO

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The Power of Choice

- Marc Aronson - [Reading Rockets Interview](#)
- Book choice increases engagement, motivation, stamina, and volume in reading *and* writing
- Workshop focuses on the individual child and encourages independent learning through a gradual release of responsibility

Ways to Support Your Child's Literacy

- Let your children see you read for pleasure
- Read aloud to them – talk about the pictures, make predictions and connections, read before bed
- Help your child find a special reading spot
- Make taking books or magazines on a trip or to the beach a priority
- Share your favorite books and authors when you were their age
- Ask your children questions about their books
- Go to Scranton Library – find a book series
- Help your child organize a book club with a couple of friends and meet at the library

- Encourage your child to journal. Time them for two minutes, then three, to help maintain stamina – bring it to the beach or on a trip!
- When you're riding in the car, tell your children a story about when you were little or something that happened at work that day. Leave off the ending and have them create one
- Have your child select three things they want to include in a story. Make up a story that includes those three things. I.E. A princess, race car and ice cream cone
- When you look up at the sun/moon/clouds or pass a landmark, take turns making up a story to go with them.
- Play word games like Boggle, Scrabble Junior, Word Concentration
- Ask your child to create a story based on a magazine picture or family photograph
- Encourage your child to write a book recommendation for his/her teacher and send it on a post card to her school or home address

Digital Literacy Resources

- [Trading Card Creator – 3rd graders & up](#)

This interactive allows students to create their own trading card about a real or fictional person, place, object, event, or abstract concept.

- [Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Triathlon](#)

- [Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge](#)

- [Terrific nonfiction and current events website for 2nd graders & up](#)

- [PBS Kids Lab](#)

- [National Geographic Kids](#)

- [Explore Dinosaurs](#)

- [Time for Kids](#)

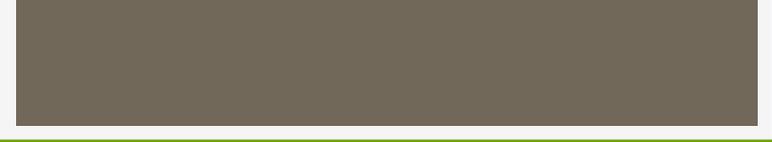
- [Storia](#)

Ralph Fletcher – Writing Hero to Young Authors

○ What Should I Write About?

- “I’m not a big believer in “story starters”. I believe that the best ideas are living inside you. Your challenge is to dig them out. Do the writing only **you** can do. But every writer gets stuck from time to time so I’ve included a few ideas to jump-start your imagination. You might try to write about”:
 - * Family story
 - * A particular tradition in your family.
 - * An artifact (arrowhead, ring, antique, etc.). Important objects in our lives often provide excellent material to write about.
 - * Special place: special room, attic nook, inside of a tree, scary closet. You might start by quickly sketching a map of a house full of memories. Mark those rooms where something important happened to you.

- * Brother, sister, or special relative. Remember: think small. Focus on one aspect of that person, or one experience you had with him or her.
 - * Your place in the family. Are the oldest kid in your family? The youngest? Are you a middle child? An only child? Were you adopted?
 - * Best friend. (Did you ever get in trouble?)
 - * Moving. Did you leave behind a best friend when you moved from your old house?
 - * A disastrous time you had at camp or on a family vacation.
 - * Horrible haircut (or other mortifying experience)
 - * An injury. Did you ever have to go to the hospital
 - * Important first: your first day in school, the first time you rode a two-wheeler, etc.
 - * Favorite pet, or a pet you once had.
 - * When your family changed: your brother went off to college, grandma came to live with you, etc.
 - * What you are (or used to be) afraid of.
 - * One thing you never want to do again!



○ How To Use Your Writer's Notebook

- Use your notebook to breathe in the world around you. You can write about:
 - 1) What amazes/surprises/anger you
 - 2) What you wonder about
 - 3) What you notice
 - 4) "Seed Ideas" or "Triggers" to generate stories or poems
 - 5) Small details that intrigue you
 - 6) Snatches of talk you overhear
 - 7) Memories
 - 8) Lists
 - 9) Photos, articles, ticket stubs or other artifacts
 - 10) Your own sketches, drawings or doodles
 - 11) Quotes or inspiring passages from books or poems