

GOALS

- Write informative/explanatory texts:
 - supply facts about the topic
- Write with guidance and support from adults:
 - focus on a topic, suggestions from peers
 - add details to strengthen writing as needed
 - use a digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers
- Spell untaught words phonetically:
 - adding all hearable sounds by stretching the words out

PREPARATION

Create an example book (5-10 minutes)

Create an example book using WriteReader called, “What’s in My School Bag” (or use our example provided [here](#)).

The front page of your book should have an image of your teacher school bag and your name.

Take a picture of several items you carry in your bag using the camera option within WriteReader. For each of the pages write a simple sentence to correspond to the image.

Your school bag example should reflect the criteria you wish your students to include.

Use the book you create to introduce using WriteReader to become an author.

What's in My School Bag?

Ms. Smith



Make writing groups of 2 (3-5 minutes)

The first time you introduce WriteReader to your class, you should consider letting students work in pairs. Working in pairs will allow them to get support from a peer while they are learning to use the new tech tool.

Organize students into groups of two. Pair students with similar writing/reading level or you can pair students with different strengths and weaknesses so they have an opportunity to learn from one another.

Topic: What's in Your School Bag?

FIRST LESSON

Introduction of the writing topic and the example book (10-15 minutes)

- Explain the goals of the writing assignment, “What’s in My School Bag.”
- Ask students what they think is in the teacher’s bag. Make a list of suggestions as they guess which items could be in your bag.
- Next, show and read them your book example (or the provided [example](#)).
- Allow students to provide you with feedback on what else should be included in your book.
- As students are providing feedback, model how to add pages, words, and images to books.

Introduction to WriteReader (15-20 minutes)

Before students author their first book, illustrate how to use WriteReader in the following steps:



1. Log in using a test student account.

Note: You will want to create a test student account using your teacher class code. This will allow you to view WriteReader from a student’s perspective and model how to use it prior to the lesson.

2. Create a new book.



3. Add an image using the camera option.

4. Type the title, “What’s in My School Bag.”

5. Type author(s) name(s).

Note: Students should only use their first name and last initial to protect their privacy if they publish to the Kids’ Library upon completion of their book.

6. Add a new page.

7. Add an image to the page.

Note: Have students provide you directions on how to add pictures to the pages.

8. Model how students should type their sentences in the upper area of the book page.



More features of WriteReader will be introduced in upcoming lessons.

A suggested best practice for teachers using WriteReader should be to create a demo student account so they can understand both views of the platform.

Prepare writing phase (10-15 minutes)

Brainstorm ideas as a class about what is in their school bags and words they will need to complete the assignment:

Consider adding the following:

- Title of the book: “What is in Our School Bags?”
- Common items found in school bags:
 - Pencils
 - Calculator
 - Paper
 - Notebook
 - Lunch box

Topic: What's in Your School Bag?

Writing phase (20-30 minutes)

Give your students the following instructions:

1. Take one picture of both of your school bags for the title page of your book.
2. Write the title of the book, "What is in Our School Bags?"
3. Add your names to the front page as the authors.
4. Take turns choosing an item from your school bag for the following pages:
 - A. Take and add a picture of the item.
 - B. Write a sentence about the item.

NEXT LESSON(S)

Inspiration and feedback: Two stars and a wish! (15-20 minutes)

Before students continue with the writing phase, show them some examples of student work on the projector/interactive whiteboard.

Encourage students to comment on the work using the "two stars and a wish" criteria below:

Two Stars: Students should comment on two positive aspects of the work.

One Wish: Students should provide one constructive piece of feedback to the book authors that they can improve.

Encourage students to provide constructive feedback and praise. There should be two "stars" for every "wish."

Writing phase continued (20-30 minutes per lesson)

After each group has received feedback from their books during the "Two stars and a wish!" activity, students should continue working until the teacher has approved their final version.

Some best practices to consider during the writing phase:

- Teachers should monitor student progress while writing is taking place.
- Visit each group to offer assistance.
- If you are working with another group, encourage students to solicit advice from their peers.
- Teachers should include adult writing below the students' text for as many groups as time will allow.
- Priority should be given to the students who have the lowest reading/writing level in order to provide support.
- If some groups finish before others, they can offer support to their classmates.

FINAL LESSON

Evaluation and Feedback (20-30 minutes)

After each group finishes their book, it is important to make time to read their creations aloud and share their work.

- Below are a few ideas on how you can share student work:
 - Students can take turns alternating reading a page from their books.
 - The teacher can read the book.
 - You can ask for volunteers to read their books.
 - Teachers can ask students to pick one book to read from another group out loud.
- Students and the teacher should identify and commend each book on a learning goal they accomplished.
- Provide each student group with at least one piece of advice on how they can improve their book creations.

Share and publish (5-10 minutes)

Use one or more of the options below to share students' work:

- Publish to the Kids' Library (WriteReader's public online publishing platform <https://writeread.com/kidslibrary/>)
- Download and print a book.
 - After downloading the booklet, it is available without any limits through printing and emailing.
 - Printed book size is 5.5"x8.5"
- Provide parents with the information on how they can print student work by providing their child's username and class code. There is a parent letter template available in your dashboard in WriteReader.

Note: When publishing to Kids' Library it is imperative that parents and students are aware that the books will be public. Do not include students' full names in the books to protect student privacy.