


**WRITING**  
AND  
**GRAMMAR**  
WORKTEXT

Fourth Edition



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# DEVELOPING YOUR VOICE

## WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

If you paused now to write your memoirs, what would you say? Who would read them? Would you be confident that you had communicated clearly?

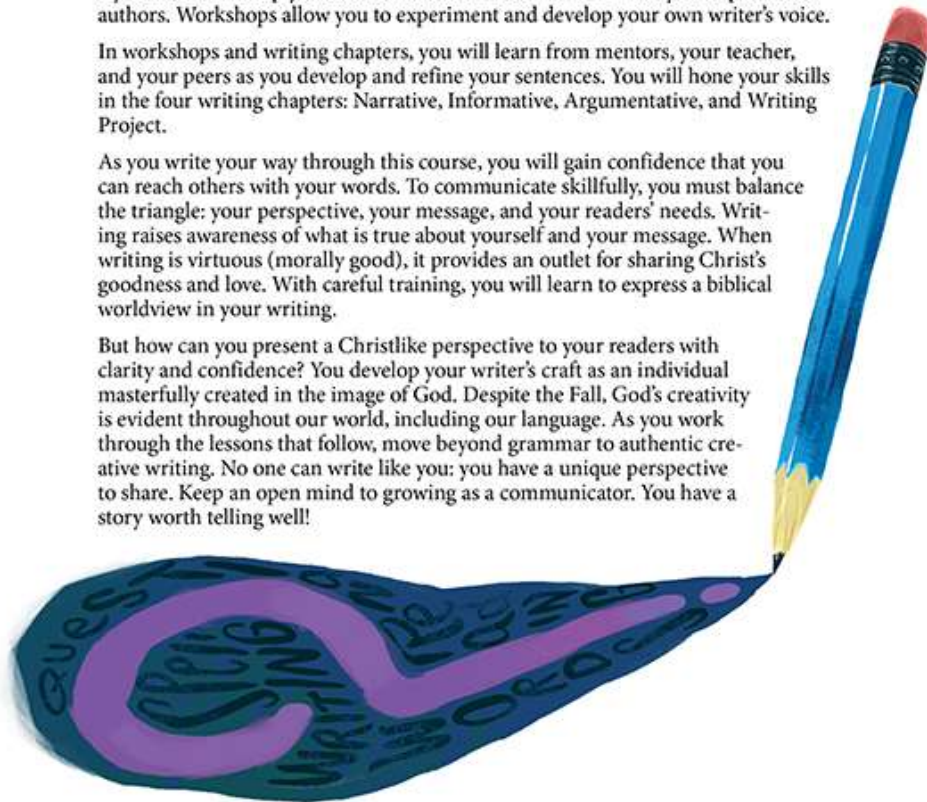
In school thus far you have learned parts of speech and basic sentence construction. In seventh grade you will be growing as a writer of well-crafted sentences. You will encounter familiar building blocks (i.e., subjects, verbs, and direct objects) and some new elements, such as verbals (which are useful and fun!) and dangling modifiers (which confuse or amuse readers).

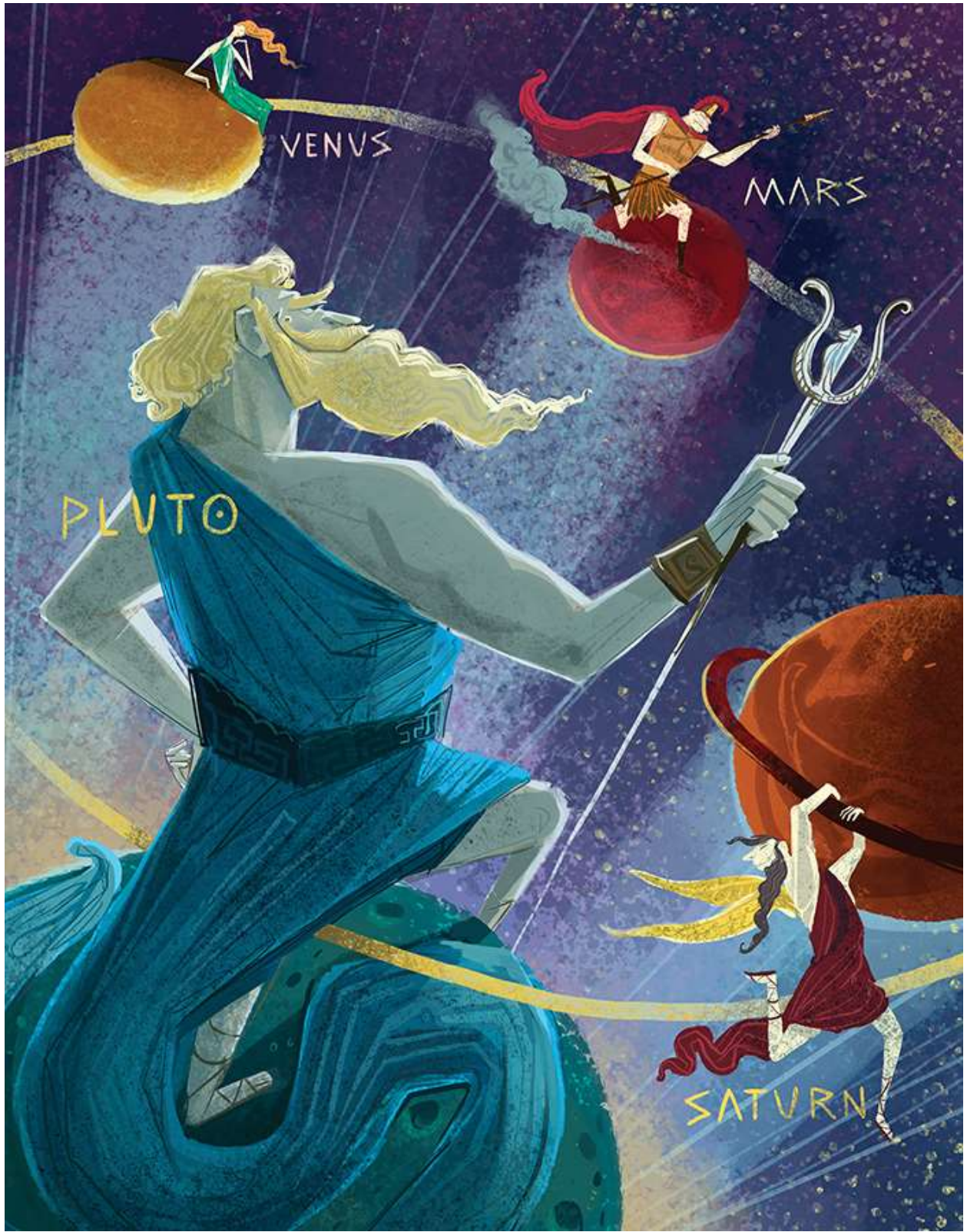
Writing Workshops will teach you how to use grammar to improve your writing style. These will help you to discover effective elements in the styles of published authors. Workshops allow you to experiment and develop your own writer's voice.

In workshops and writing chapters, you will learn from mentors, your teacher, and your peers as you develop and refine your sentences. You will hone your skills in the four writing chapters: Narrative, Informative, Argumentative, and Writing Project.

As you write your way through this course, you will gain confidence that you can reach others with your words. To communicate skillfully, you must balance the triangle: your perspective, your message, and your readers' needs. Writing raises awareness of what is true about yourself and your message. When writing is virtuous (morally good), it provides an outlet for sharing Christ's goodness and love. With careful training, you will learn to express a biblical worldview in your writing.

But how can you present a Christlike perspective to your readers with clarity and confidence? You develop your writer's craft as an individual masterfully created in the image of God. Despite the Fall, God's creativity is evident throughout our world, including our language. As you work through the lessons that follow, move beyond grammar to authentic creative writing. No one can write like you: you have a unique perspective to share. Keep an open mind to growing as a communicator. You have a story worth telling well!





## CHAPTER 3

# NOUNS

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Lowell Observatory's discovery of a minor planet in 1930 sparked world interest. Suggestions for names poured in. Hearing her grandfather wonder about the new planet's name, eleven-year-old Venetia Burney knew other planets had been named after mythological Greek gods. "Why not call it Pluto?" she said. Her idea stuck. Since ancient times people have named and told stories about the sky's brightest objects. Why do we continue this tradition? Vivid, specific nouns are memorable and create an impact.*

### DISCOVER!

*What makes the following descriptions and prayer vivid?*

#### MENTOR TEXT

A huge cherry-tree grew outside, so close that its boughs tapped against the house, and it was so thickset with blossoms that hardly a leaf was to be seen. On both sides of the house was a big orchard, one of apple trees and one of cherry trees, also showered over with blossoms; and their grass was all sprinkled with dandelions. In the garden below were lilac trees purple with flowers, and their dizzily sweet fragrance drifted up to the window on the morning wind.

Below the garden a green field lush with clover sloped down to the hollow where the brook ran and where scores of white birches grew, upspringing airily out of an undergrowth suggestive of delightful possibilities in ferns and mosses and woody things generally. Beyond it was a hill, green and feathery with spruce and fir.

"Gracious heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the White Way of Delight and the Lake of Shining Waters and Bonny and the Snow Queen."

—L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

## FORMS OF NOUNS

Nouns are words that name. A **noun** names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

**Person:** girl, Moira

**Place:** town, Boise

**Thing:** book, *Swiss Family Robinson*

**Idea:** emotion, happiness

Another way to define nouns is by how they change when they are used in different ways. In English most nouns have four forms: the **singular**, the **singular possessive**, the **plural**, and the **plural possessive**. Any word that can appear in these four forms is a noun.

**boy:** The singular form of the noun shows that just one person or thing is being named.

**boy's:** The singular possessive form shows ownership by one person or thing. It usually modifies another noun.

**boys:** The plural shows that at least two persons or things are being named.

**boys':** The plural possessive form shows ownership by more than one person or thing. It usually modifies another noun.

### Practice the Skill

Underline the nouns.

1. Critics believe Edgar Allan Poe wrote a poem when a friend tragically died.
2. Poe chose to name his heroine after the legendary Helen of Troy.
3. Her circumstances led to the Trojan War.
4. In the poem Poe alludes to Ulysses, who returned to his home after ten years of travel.
5. The themes of his poems often deal with death or terror.



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### Review the Skill

Fill in the blank with an appropriate noun.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (person) and Denise worked at camp during the summer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Denise's (idea) of water inspired her to be a lifeguard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The camp was in (place).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The campers played many (thing).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Out in the (place), Justin hid from the other team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Amy's (idea) of snakes affected her enjoyment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. (person) borrowed clothes from her sister.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. From camp, Todd sent (thing) to his best friend at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Ted wrote to his grandparents who live in (place).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. (person) was practicing for his swim test.

### Practice the Skill

Change the underlined nouns to the plural form. Write the answer in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Black darkness cloaked the mountain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The wind tore the leaves from the tree, and raindrops hammered the housetop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The branch of the tree hung low from the weight of the rain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Rain overflowed in the gutter of the old farmhouse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The sky flashed lightning blue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. The lightning flash looked like a z in the sky.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Moments later, a crash of thunder rumbled through the valley.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. The man ran quickly onto the porch to get out of the storm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. After the rain the child went outside to play.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. The day turned out to be perfect for fishing for trout.



### Review the Skill

Underline any error with plural forms of nouns. Rewrite the nouns correctly on the lines below the paragraph.

Minnesota is home to many wild animalses. The northern forestes are home to bears and mooses. Some of the most interesting creatures in the state are the wolfs. You can see smaller animals in Minnesota too. Beavers and foxs are abundant. Wildfowl, such as ducks and turkies, also live there. The state is famous for the fishes that live in its lakes. Some people fish all year long. Many people have buildinges called shantys to protect them from the cold. The shantys have holes in their floors that allow the fishermen to fish through holeses in the ice.

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### Use the Skill

Write an original sentence using two singular nouns. Write a second sentence using two plural nouns.

26. \_\_\_\_\_

27. \_\_\_\_\_

## FORMING THE POSSESSIVES OF NOUNS

Possessive nouns show ownership or belonging. They tell who or what owns a thing. All possessive nouns have apostrophes.

To form the singular possessive, add 's to the singular form of the noun (even if the noun already ends in s).

house	house's roof
Mr. Charles	Mr. Charles's car
child	child's toy
goose	goose's feathers

Traditionally, add only ' to the proper names *Jesus* and *Moses*.

Jesus	Jesus' disciples
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To form the plural possessive, add ' or 's to the plural form of the noun.

If a plural ends with s, add only ' to make it possessive.

houses	houses' foundations
the Bateses	the Bateses' vacation

If a plural does not end with s, add 's.

children	children's playground
geese	geese's pond

### Practice the Skill

Rewrite each phrase on the line beside it, changing each of phrase to a possessive noun form.

1. the car of Mrs. Peterson \_\_\_\_\_
2. the collars of the dogs \_\_\_\_\_
3. the sister of Moses \_\_\_\_\_
4. the food of the mice \_\_\_\_\_
5. the basketball of Angelo \_\_\_\_\_
6. the suits of the men \_\_\_\_\_
7. the daughter of the Joneses \_\_\_\_\_
8. the passport of the tourist \_\_\_\_\_
9. the attention of the people \_\_\_\_\_
10. the color of the flowers \_\_\_\_\_

