

Canadian Story Starters

Grades 1-3

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Photos by S&S Learning Materials**

About the author:

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool that they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

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At Glance

Learning Expectations

Through the meaningful context of creative writing, students will:

- ✓ Express their responses to a variety of photographs, using evidence from the images and their own knowledge and experience
- ✓ Develop ability in creative, independent thinking and ordering of ideas in a logical sequence
- ✓ Communicate their ideas clearly and effectively
- ✓ Communicate their ideas for specific purposes and to specific audiences
- ✓ Apply previously learned basic skills of grammar, spelling, punctuation and conventions of style and form
- ✓ Practise proofreading and editing skills





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Introduction

Why Use this Resource

Congratulations on your purchase of a worthwhile classroom resource! This collection of 58 engaging and detailed photographs will inspire students' creative writing. Images of varying complexities are included so that students with a wide range of critical thinking and writing abilities may engage meaningfully with them. The photographs may be used as "starters" for a variety of forms of writing and can be used to augment any writing program or used as a meaningful "filler" activity when students have extra classroom time.

Organization of the Book

This resource is divided into five sections based on the primary theme of the photographs:

1. Nature
2. Seasons and Special Days
3. Canadian Symbols and Places
4. People
5. Sports

For easy reference, the story genre and photograph number are listed at the bottom of each page.

Each story starter worksheet includes a photograph and corresponding word list, a blank line for the story's title, and numbered blank lines for the story itself. The word list includes key words related to the photograph to help the students begin to think about their overall impression of the image. They should read the word list before writing to stimulate their creative thinking, and you may wish to have them include the list words in their story. The blank lines are numbered so that you may easily give students instructions on how long their creative writing piece should be.

A blank lined page is included at the back of this book (page 64) and may be used to write a story outline, or to continue writing the story itself if the student needs extra space.

Students may be given the Writing Checklist (page 5) after writing a story. The checklist is a useful guide to help them edit and proofread their stories.

How to Use the Photographs

The story starters may be used as springboards for a variety of forms of creative writing. The most straightforward use is for a simple narrative or short story. Students who would benefit from other writing challenges may enjoy using the story starters to write any of the following:

- Poetry
- A letter to a character
- Diary or journal entry
- Expressing a point of view
- Expressing feelings
- Telling what happened before
- Predicting what may happen next
- And many other forms of writing!



Name: _____



Word List

bear

black

woods

walk

hungry

fish



Title: _____

1

2

3

4

5

6





Name: _____



Word List

beaver

swim

water

cut

trees

build



Title: _____

1

2

3

4

5

6





Name: _____



Word List

squirrel

seeds

ate

hand

brown

took



Title: _____

1

2

3

4

5

6

