



**Unit of Study:**  
*Launching Writing Workshop –  
Young Writers at Work – Grade 2*

*Appendix of Resources*

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District  
Elementary Language Arts Department, Updated June 2012

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Dear Parents,

I am very excited to begin writing workshop this year! This will be a time when students take part in a writing lesson and, most importantly, write independently. I will provide explicit instruction on the various stages of the writing process. At each stage, we will be looking at great models of writing by authors who will serve as mentors. Students will be encouraged to take risks as they develop their own individual writing styles and become part of a writing community that shares ideas and learns from one another.

Today we launched another exciting component of writing workshop – our very own Writers’ Notebooks. In his book, *A Writer’s Notebook: Unlocking the Writer Within You*, Ralph Fletcher, an author and writing mentor, explains what a Writer’s Notebook is:

*“Writers are like other people, except for at least one important difference. Other people have daily thoughts and feelings, notice this sky or that smell, but they don’t do much about it. All those thoughts, feelings, sensations, and opinions pass through them like the air they breathe.*

*Not writers. Writers react. And writers need a place to record those reactions. That’s what a writer’s notebook is for. It gives you a place to write down what makes you angry or sad or amazed, to write down what you noticed and don’t want to forget, to record exactly what your grandmother whispered in your ear...*

*A writer’s notebook gives you a place to live like a writer, not just in school during writing time, but wherever you are, at any time of day.”*

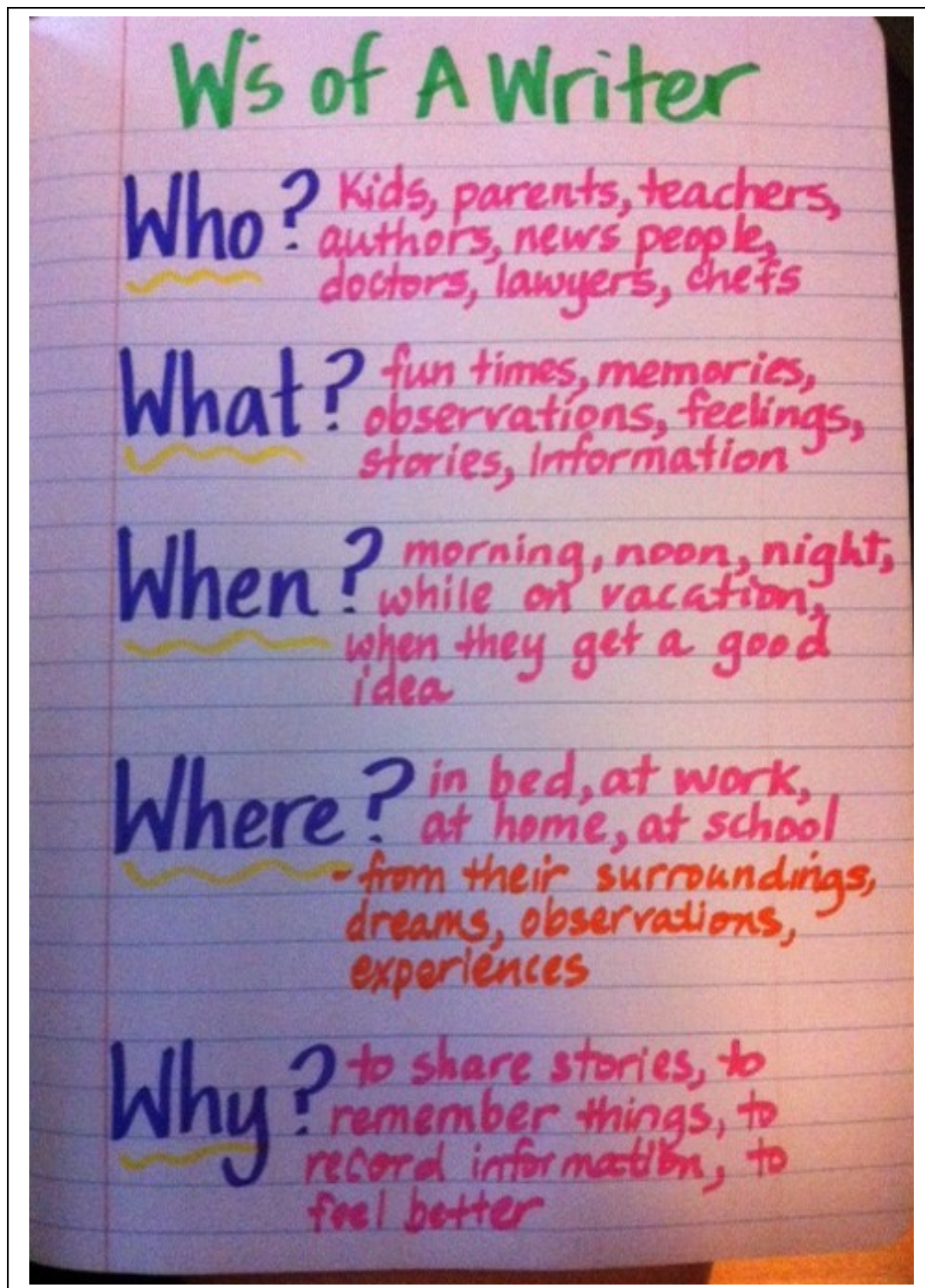
Your child will be taking home his or her Writer’s Notebook this week to personalize it and make it special. Your child should decorate the front cover of his or her notebook. I shared my Writer’s Notebook with the children today, and we discussed how they would like them to look. Your child can add photographs of special memories, people, pets, places, ticket stubs, and any other artifacts that are meaningful to his or her life. These decorations should have the potential to inspire ideas for writing.

Your child’s decorated Writer’s Notebook needs to be back in school by: \_\_\_\_\_.

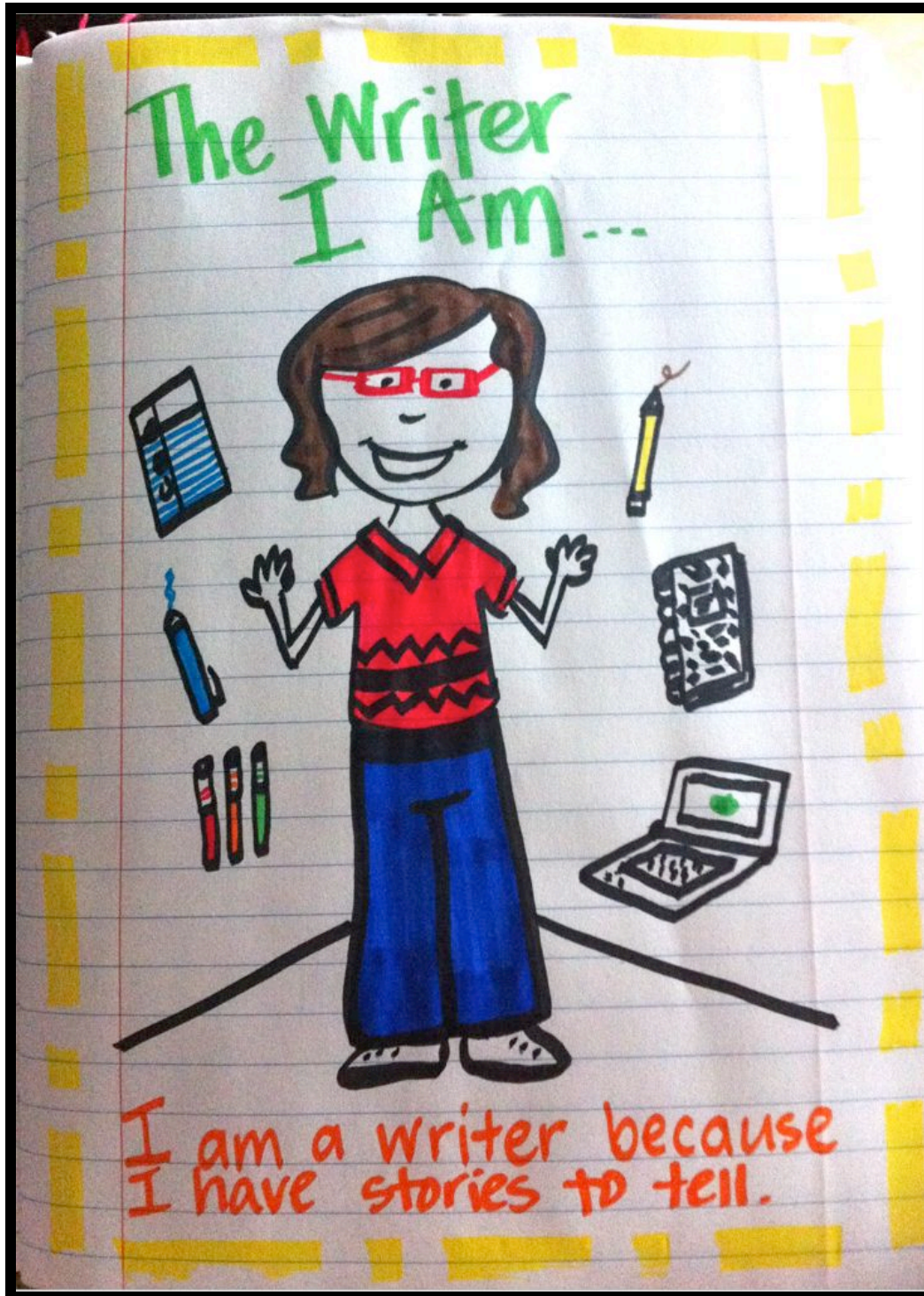
As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your help in what is sure to be an exciting writing adventure!

Sincerely,

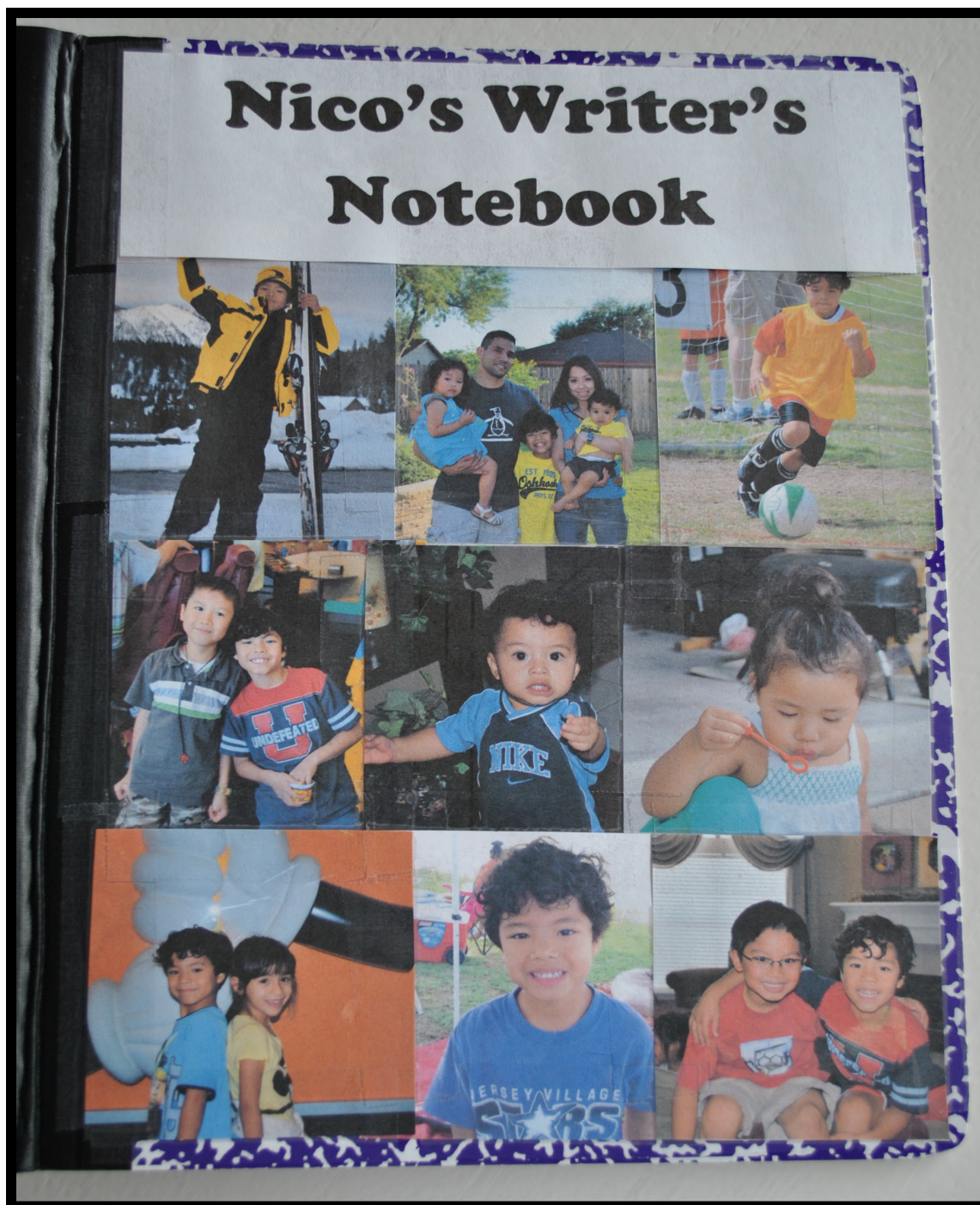
# W's of a Writer Anchor Chart



# The Writer I Am Notebook Entry



# Writing Notebook Sample Front Cover



# *Writing Conference Role Play*

## **Role Play 1 – Writer Doesn't Know His Job**

**Teacher:** What are you working on as a writer?

**Child A:** *I'm writing about my basketball game.*

**Teacher:** What are you trying to do as a writer?

**Child A:** *I am writing about playing with my team.*

**Teacher:** What will you do today in your writing?

**Child A:** *I will write about how I shot the basketball.*

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## **Role Play 2 – Writer Understands His Job**

**Teacher:** What are you working on as a writer?

**Child A:** *I'm writing a personal narrative about playing basketball, and I've zoomed in on the moment I shot the basketball and tied the game.*

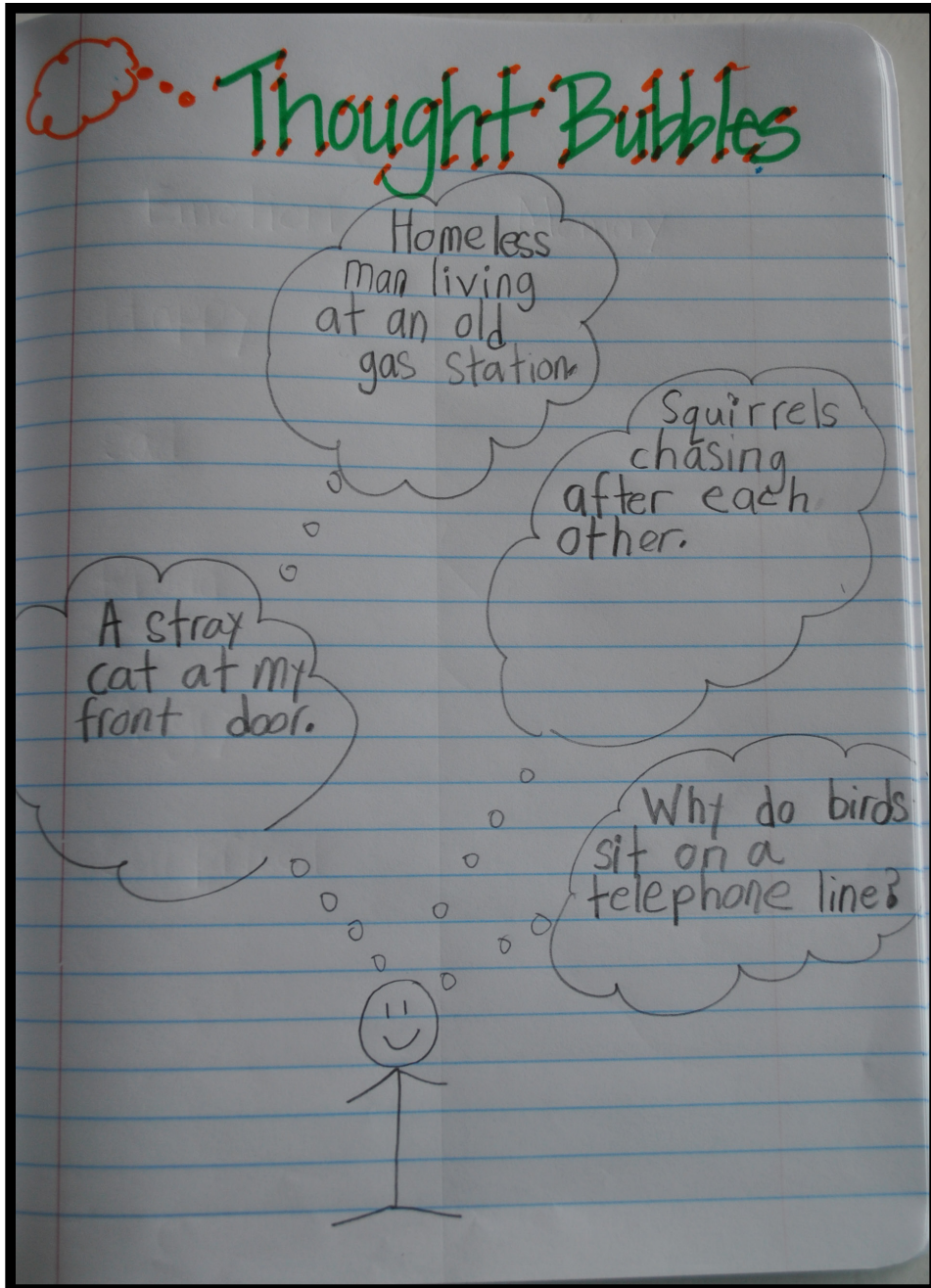
**Teacher:** What are you trying to do as a writer?

**Child A:** *I want to write with details so that my reader can picture the scene in their mind.*

**Teacher:** What will you do today in your writing?

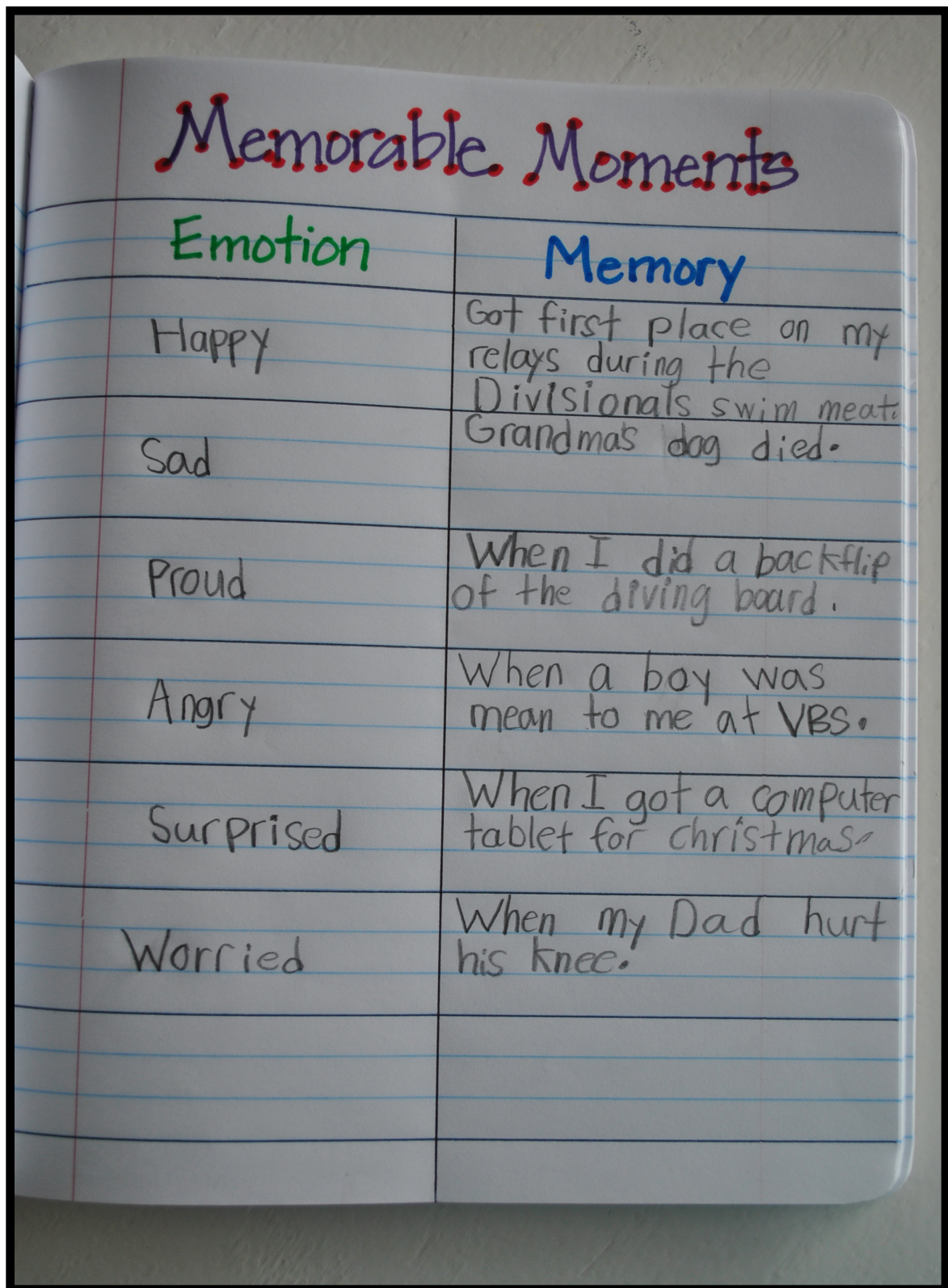
**Child A:** *I was going to sketch the scene to see if that helps me remember the details I've left out.*

# Thought Bubbles Notebook Entry





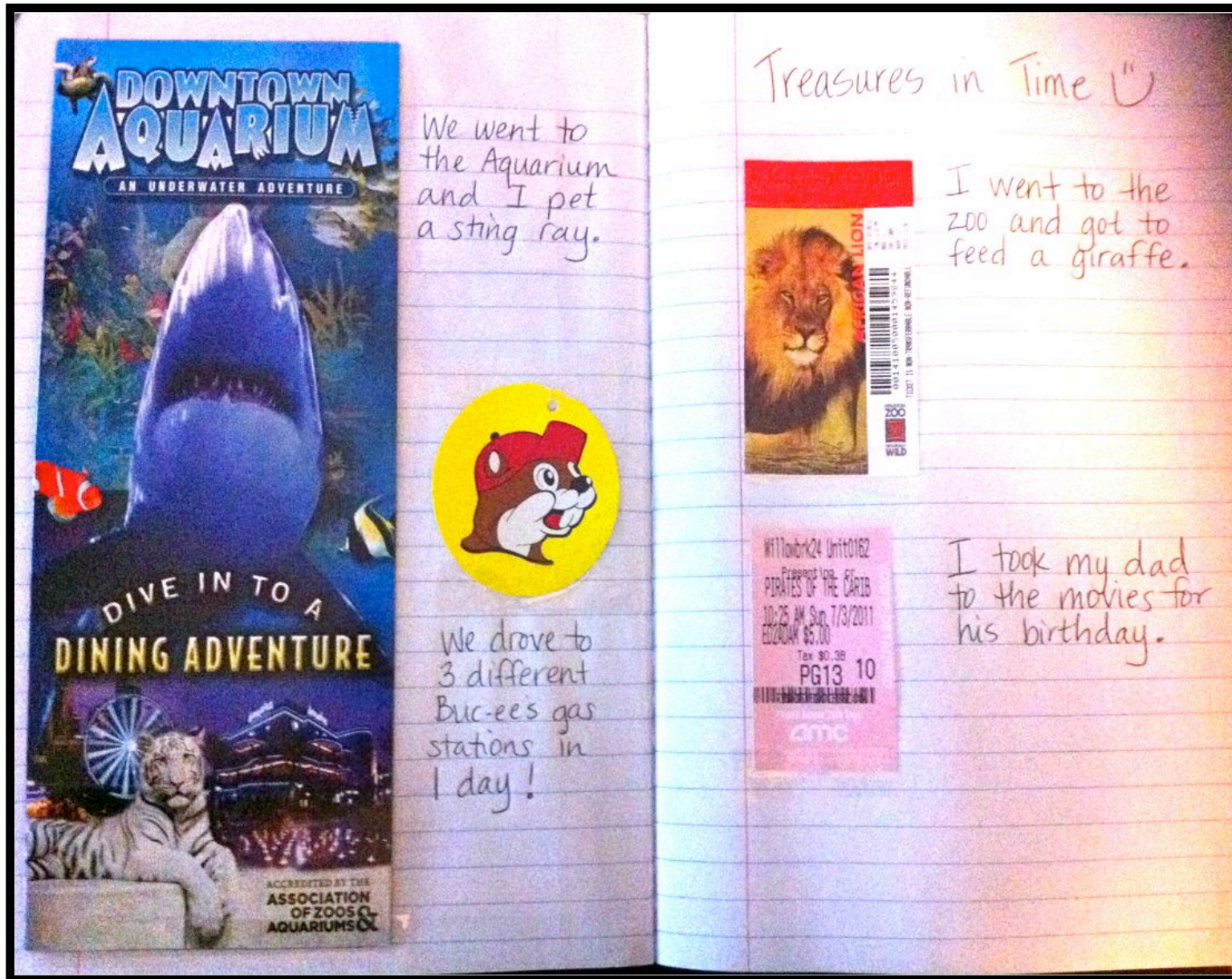
## Memorable Moments Notebook List



The image shows a notebook page with the title "Memorable Moments" written in red and purple. Below the title is a table with two columns: "Emotion" and "Memory". The table contains seven rows of handwritten entries.

Emotion	Memory
Happy	Got first place on my relays during the Divisionals swim meet.
Sad	Grandmas dog died.
Proud	When I did a backflip of the diving board.
Angry	When a boy was mean to me at VBS.
Surprised	When I got a computer tablet for christmas.
Worried	When my Dad hurt his knee.

# Treasures in Time Notebook Entry



## Quickwrite Notebook Entry

June 26, 2012

One day I went to VBS. Because my friend was going. It was at nine. So I went at nine. I saw my friend. I wanted to hang out with him but his other friend wouldn't let me. Because I didn't play a game called halo. Then he told me to get away from them. I didn't go away I just stoped talking to them. We kinda got along later. The next day it was even worse. They kept calling me mean names.

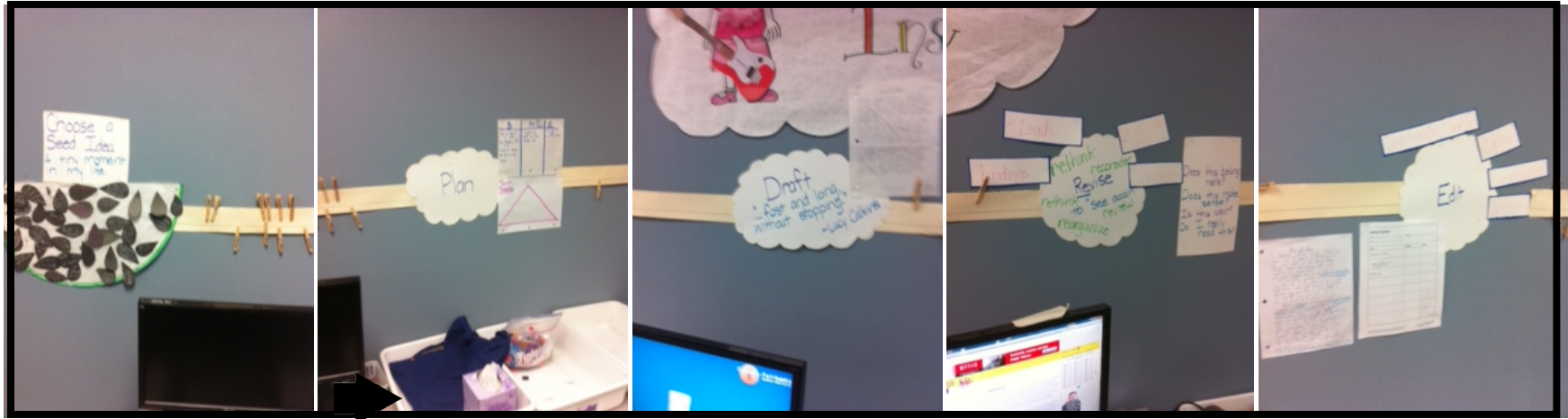


\_\_\_\_\_ 's  
*Writing Project Deadline Calendar*

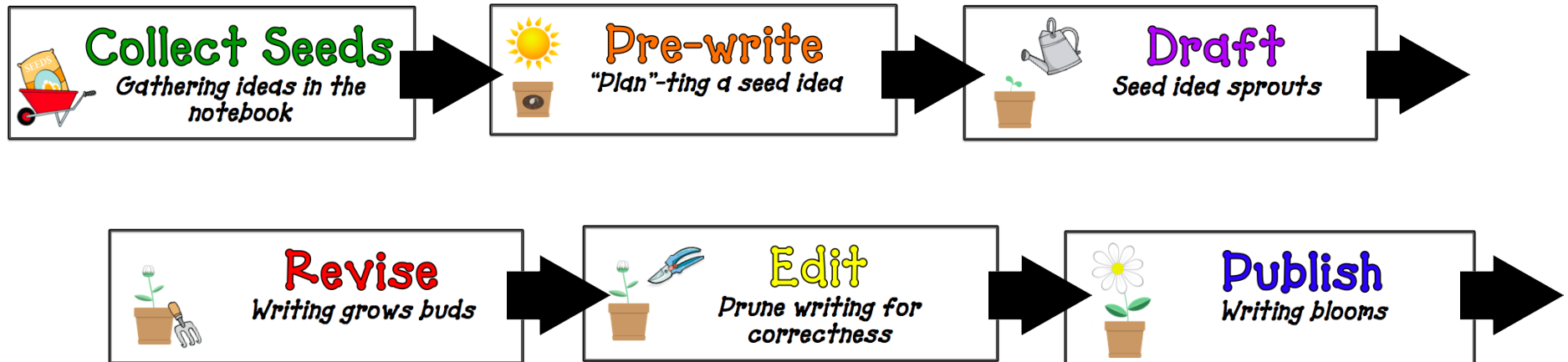


<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Sample Project Board



## Optional Visuals for a Classroom Project Board





# Collect Seeds

*Gathering ideas in the notebook*



# Pre-write

*"Plan"-ting a seed idea*



**Draft**  
*Seed idea sprouts*



**Revise**  
*Writing grows buds*



# Edit

*Prune writing for  
correctness*

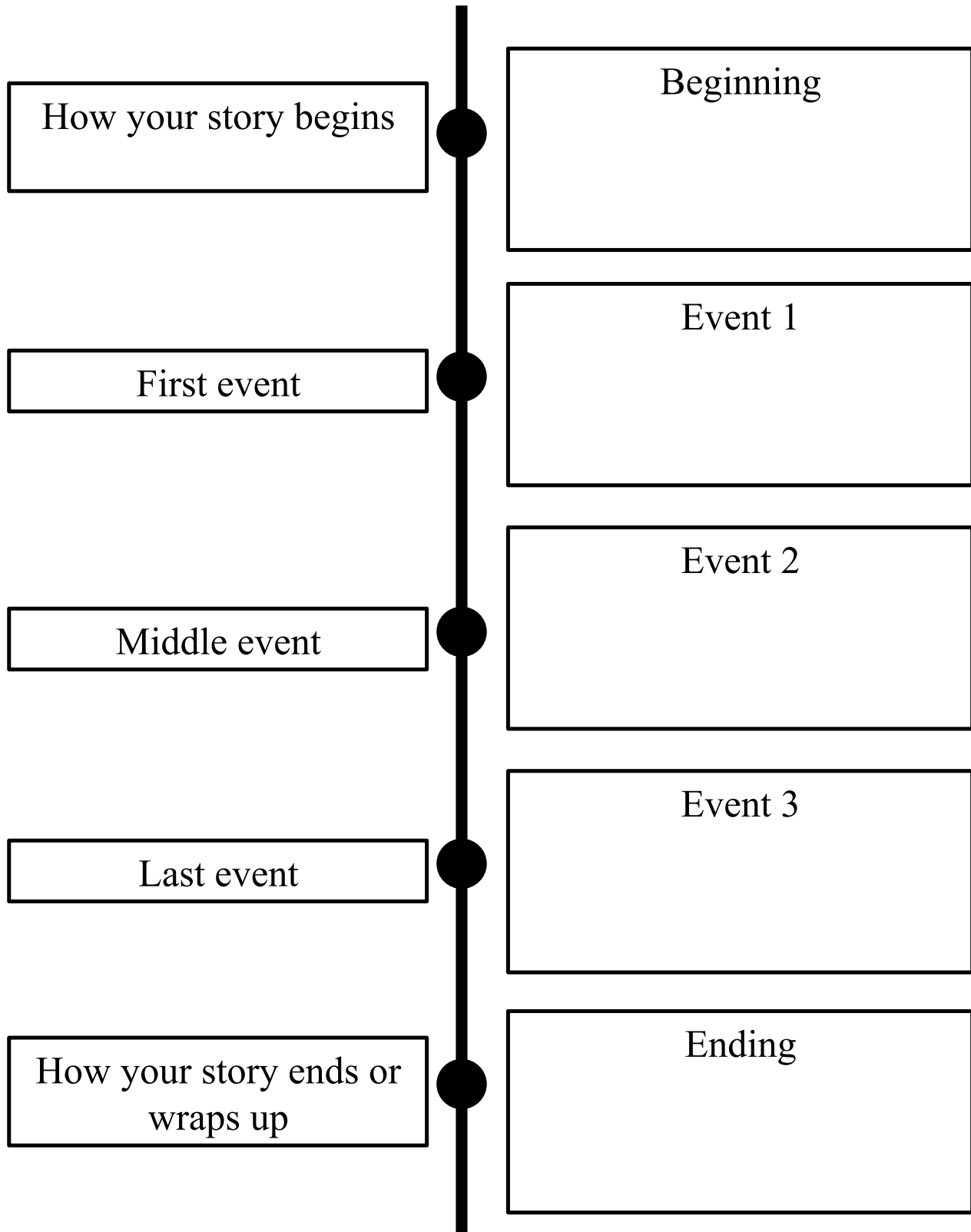


# Publish

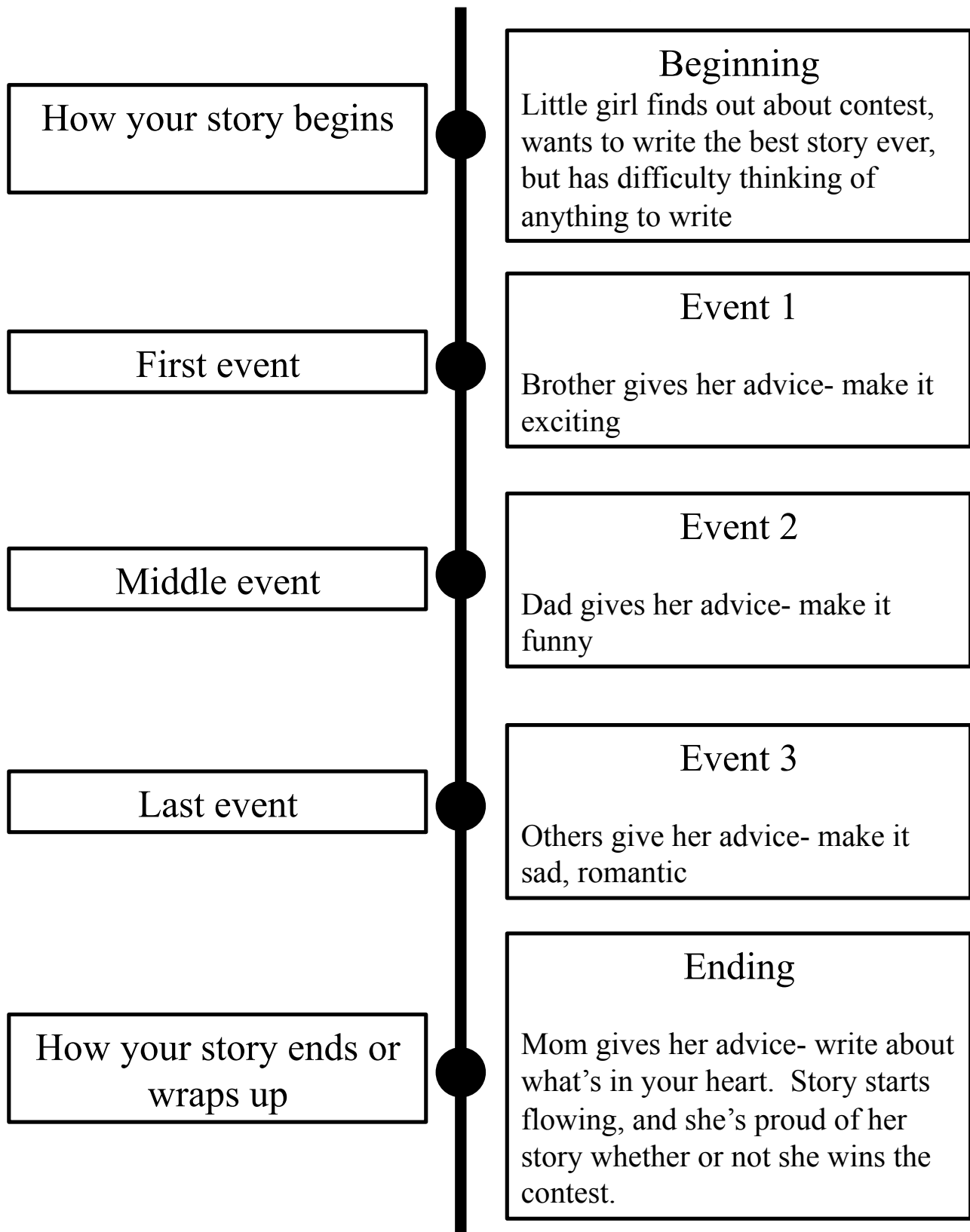
*Writing blooms*



# Timing Is Everything



# Timing Is Everything

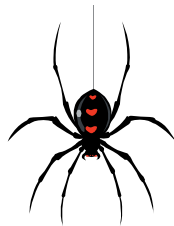


# *Fun Ways to Revise*



## *Sticky Notes*

One revision tool we can use is sticky notes. We stick a note where we want to add a few words or sentences and write the text on the note.



## *Spider Legs*

Or we can use “spider legs.” That’s a cool name, right? A “spider leg” is a strip of paper that we tape to the side of the draft, next to the place where we want to add text. We call them “spider legs” because after we have added a few strips to the draft, it looks like it has lots of legs like a spider.



## *Add a Carrot*

We can also add using “carrot add ons.” An “add on” is a letter or number that shows us where in the draft we want to add text.

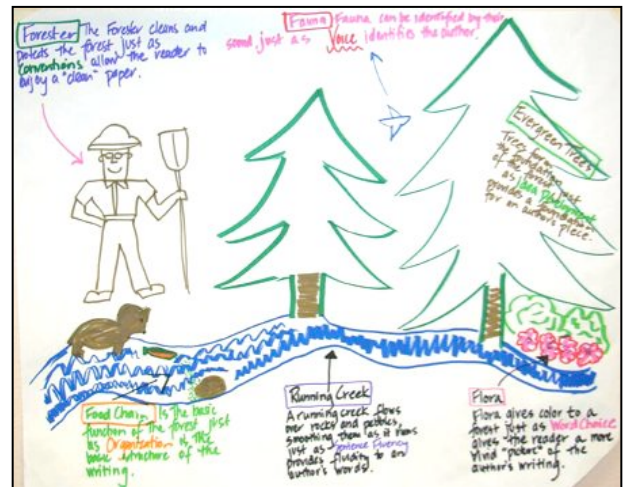
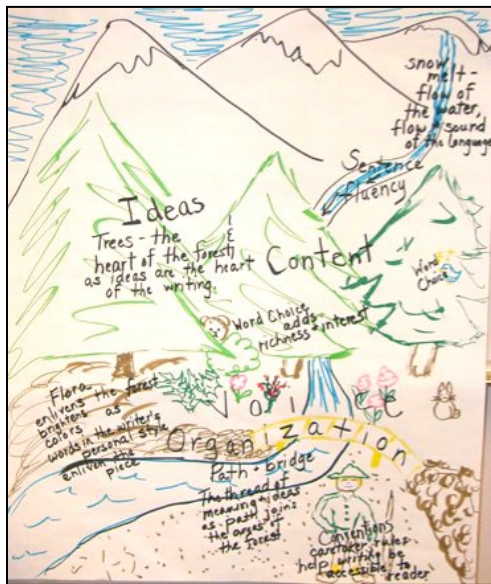
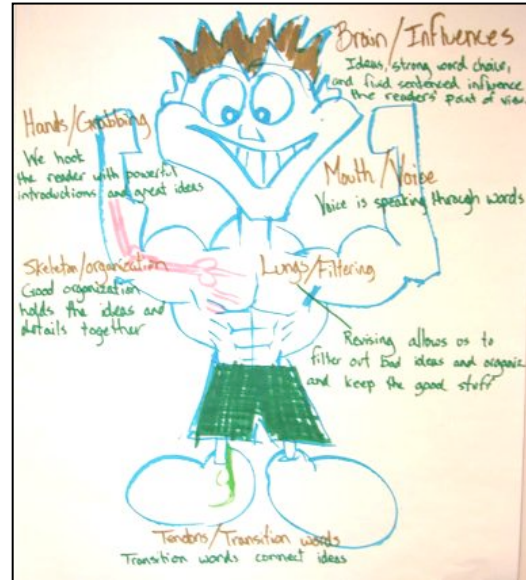
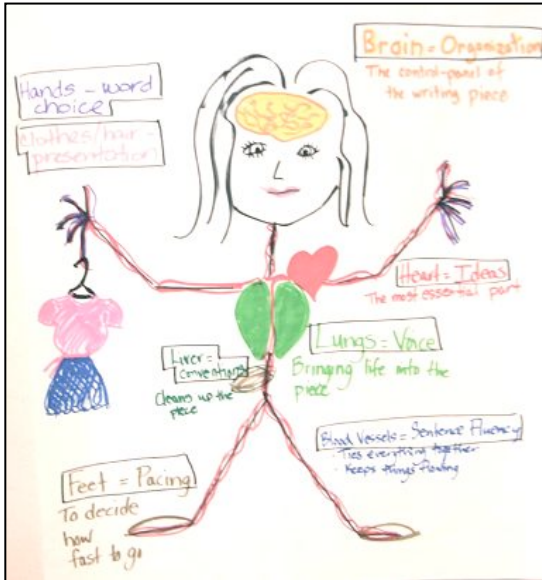


## *Story Surgery*

Completely revising or editing a piece.  
Cutting out a paragraph and taping or you can glue a new piece.

# Metaphors for Six Traits

Have students develop a classroom metaphor for the traits that they can refer to throughout the year as a way to talk about their writing. For additional information, go to the web site: <http://writingfix.com/traits.htm>.



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