**Creative Writing Ideas/Suggestions/Resources**

**Generated at the ELA Collaborative; September, 26, 2013**

Participants at the workshop placed sticky notes on the wall requesting strategies for teaching writing. All but one of those notes requested creative writing ideas. Participants in the “writing” group centered most of their discussion on poetry but shared other ideas as well.

1. Make poetry boxes. Students compose poems and place them in boxes. Boxes are then displayed around the room. (Karen Nemecek Petoskey; nemecek.kg.t@petoskeyschools.org)
2. Have students write a “Give Away Poem.” Students write a poem and then give it to a member of the school staff or faculty. (Karen Nemecek)
3. Web site: [www.storybird.com](http://www.storybird.com). This has art and writing activities. Good site!
4. Have students write lines of poetry on stones. Each stone should connect to the other progressing as the meaning is intended. Put on display.
5. Take students outside and walk around. Ask them to write about something in nature that is like them. This could be a poem or narrative.
6. Read Kelly Gallagher’s *Write Like This* (Chapter 6)
7. Place authors of mentor texts on bulletin board with their photograph and biographical info. Students can read them and reflect what they learned about them in a quick write or journal assignment.
8. Assign students a “Sacred Writing” time where students write on anything they wantfor a half hour.
9. Assign students to write 1,000 words on a page on anything (See “Yarny” for word count. This was from Garver.)

10.Have music playing when students enter class. Ask them to write about it in their journals.

11. Use re-purposed books (used books). Tear out a page of the book and strike out some of the words on that page. Copy and give to students. Have students make a poem out of the remaining words.

12. Place a map of the human brain with the name of the parts on the SMARTBoard, etc. Tell the students to write a conversation that the parts might have with each other.

13. When students are peer editing have them follow the Sandwich Rule: Compliment

 Constructive Criticism

 Compliment

14. Web site source: barebook.com. This site sells books with blank pages. You can purchase them at a reasonable price. Have students use them for any type of writing assignment: short stories, novel, poetry, etc.

15. Teachers must model creative writing by sharing what they have written for any of the assignments they give their students.

16. Source for recognition and publishing: *Petoskey News Review.* Contact person is Cathy Johnson.

17. Magnet words for word play. Supplies: Something tin like a coffee can, role of magnet tape, magazines. Have students cut out words from the magazines and paste on pieces of the magnet tape making a magnet. Have students create statements, sentences, poetry etc. Place magnets on the tin item and display in classroom.

18. Phrase wall. Instead of a word wall, make a phrase wall. Students can select a phrase from any reading piece or create their own and post it on the wall.

19. Remember that the starting point of what a student often writes in a quick write or journal is often where they stopped. Encourage students to start writing again from where they left off.

20. Have students write new song lyrics to a popular song.

21. Have students write about their favorite mistake and what they learned from it.

 22. Poetry Poker: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~/rayser3/poetry.htm#poker> This site has a lot of fun activities with poetry in addition to the Poetry Poker.