
Favorite Quick Writes

Writing notebooks are reassuring because it is easier to start from something rather than nothing. In notebooks, writers feel free to be awkward or polished, silky or sullen. To try opinions without commitment: without anyone watching. Notebooks are dedicated to perpetual sketchiness, and that's their charm. ~ Alice Fulton



A poem a day builds vocabulary and figurative language

“Days” by Billy Collins... if you could go back to one day, one moment, which would you choose?

“When I Was Young in the Mountains” by Cynthia Rylant... when I was young on Belmont Street...

“On Turning Ten” by Billy Collins... you might write about a favorite birthday or memories of age 10

Sketches, letters, responses, or thinking on paper... but always in response to a piece of literature or a poem. I never ask students to write from a prompt or ‘story starter.’

Trace around your hand, fill it with memories of what you’ve touched, held, loved

Fill a heart shape with the music that lives in your heart, songs connected to moments you love

Choose an article from the newspaper, read aloud and respond with your thinking

A letter to someone you treasure; a letter to someone who annoys you; a letter to ask for something

Capture a conversation you overheard this week; capture the sounds of your house

Sketch your room, your backyard, your neighborhood, your classroom, your favorite hiding place

Things you wonder about; questions you’d like to ask the principal, your parents, your best friend...

Slow down time, show every detail you can recall; compressed time, like 100 moments on the school bus

Think of a favorite photograph and tell the story of that picture and why it matters to you