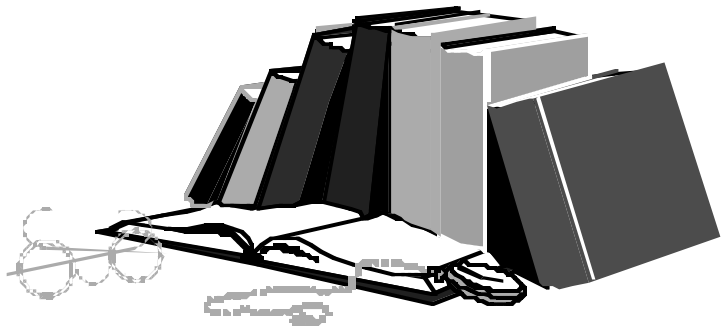


Story Starters

Objectives:

- Typing extemporaneously
- Spell checking a document accurately
- Changing font styles and sizes
- Understanding correct spacing in word processing, especially with punctuation



Program Needed:

Students will need a basic word processing program such as *AppleWorks* or *Microsoft Word*.

Instructions:

1. Students will read the 3–4 four story starters and choose one to use.
2. Decide how the students should begin their stories. Students could retype the story starter. Another option would be for students to open up a document containing all three story starters and then delete all story starters except for the one they want. Students would then begin typing, remembering to save this document with a new name.
3. Students will type the rest of their story extemporaneously. Emphasize that the stories have a beginning, middle, and ending.
4. Explain to students about spacing. One space goes in between words and after commas; two spaces go after all end marks.
5. Students should spell check their documents. Explain that they must be cautious with spell check . . . It is not a fix-all.
6. Consider putting students in pairs for proofreading. Then have them print their stories.
7. Make sure students save their work for future editing, especially if you desire to make this a complete writing project, including a rough draft and a final draft.

Extension Ideas:

Story starters are appropriate for any holiday, season, or subject matter. A teacher could make a book of story starters to be used at the computer when students finish their work. For upper level students, teachers could also make their story starters more like essay questions, such as, “What troubles did Columbus encounter before he discovered America?” Students also like to make their own story starters for other classmates or to use themselves.



Story Starters

I could tell that it was going to be one of those days. Nothing seemed to go right all day. I was mindlessly sitting at my desk when all of a sudden the classroom door swung open and there appeared....

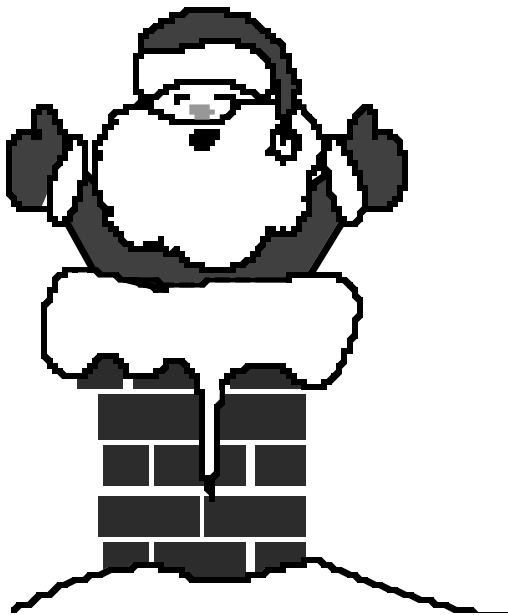
There was two feet of snow on the ground with another foot expected to fall by the end of day. We could hardly believe our eyes! Our little city, which barely got six inches of snow all winter, was in the middle of a blizzard.



Holiday Story Starters

Everyone knew that Santa was only a myth, but our views began to change after last Christmas Eve. We were all sitting around the tree sharing stories of the past when we heard a rustling in the chimney. We assumed it was birds, so we continued on with our stories. Then out of the clear blue sky . . .

Going on an Easter egg hunt was one of my favorite pastimes. My parents put one quarter in each egg and hid at least 25 of them around the house. This Easter was a little different because no one could find the hidden eggs, even my parents. We decided . . .



Examples of Essay Questions

If Martin Luther King were alive today, how do you think he would feel about the race relations at Morrison Middle School?

It takes many qualities to become the President of the United States. Name two or three qualities which you feel are most important to being a successful president and why.

