# ALL THINGS FUN & FASCINATING

Writing Lessons in Structure & Style

by Lori Verstegen

STUDENT BOOK

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# SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Lesson	Structure	Style	Subject
1	IEW Unit I: Key Word Outlines		Earth and Life Science Asteroids, Rafflesia, Seeds
2	Oral Reports		Neil Armstrong on the Moon, Vitamins, Sea Horse
3	IEW Unit II:	Strong Verbs	Aesop's Fables "Belling the Cat"
4	Writing from Outlines Creating Titles	Quality Adjectives -ly Words	"The Crow and the Peacocks"
5		#3 Sentence Opener Decoration: Alliteration	"The Ants and the Grasshoppers"
6	IEW Unit III: Narrative Stories Damocles and the King		Stories from around the World Ancient Greece
7	The Little Dutch Boy	Who/Which Clause	Holland
8	Pecos Bill	Simile, Hyperbole #6 Sentence Opener	American Tall Tales
9	Borrowing a Conflict		An Original Story
optional	Holiday Poetry	Cinquain, Acronym, Five-Senses Poem	Holidays
10	IEW Unit IV: Topic Sentences and		Amazing Animals Beaver Lodges
11	Clinchers		Swiftlet Nests
12			Honeybee Hives
13		Decoration: 3sss	Army Ants
14	Three-Paragraph Report		Amazing Animal Homes
15	IEW Unit V:	Decoration: Conversation	Cartoon Capers The Kite Ride
16	Writing from Pictures	The Because Clause	The Fishing Trip
17	IEW Unit VI: Research Reports		Men Who Changed the World Benjamin Franklin
18	(one paragraph)		Louis Braille
19		Quoting People	Thomas Edison
20	A Three-Paragraph Research Report		Men Who Changed the World
21	IEW Unit VII:		My Favorite Things My Favorite Activity
22	Creative Writing	#2 Sentence Opener	A Special Person
23			A Special Day

#### INTRODUCTION

Giant stinky flowers. Soup made from a bird's nest. Men who changed the world. These are just a few of the "fun and fascinating" things you will write about in the lessons of this book. More importantly, you will also learn how to write with structure and with style. You will write stories, reports, a miniresearch paper, poems, and creative essays. You will be surprised at how much fun you will have writing!



# To the Parent or Teacher

The lessons in this book are designed to be taught weekly. On the first day or two of the week, read through the lesson with your student(s). Write student ideas for key word outlines and for the brainstorming pages on a whiteboard. Students may write the ideas they like in their books, then have the rest of the week to complete the assignment.

### Style Helps

The appendix that begins on page 155 contains the style helps students will want to refer to when they write. These include a list of the banned words, a list of some common prepositions, and lists of great adjectives, verbs, and -ly words to replace banned or boring words. Students should tab this section for easy reference.

## Writing Can Be Fun!

At this young level, remember to keep the lessons light and fun. If writing the outlines and brainstorming notes in the book becomes tedious, let your students work off the whiteboard. The more the students enjoy the process, the more they will want to write. The more they write, the more proficient they will become.

# E-Book Supplement: Tips, Reviews, and Vocabulary

The optional e-book supplement available for *All Things Fun & Fascinating* can be downloaded at <a href="removed from sample page">removed from sample page</a> and includes tips and helps for teaching each of the lessons. Additionally, for teachers who wish to enrich the curriculum with vocabulary building activities, the e-book includes vocabulary words for each lesson. Instructions for integrating them into the lessons are included. The words were purposely chosen to work with many of the assignments, so students will be able to use them throughout the lessons. Continually using great words is the best way to learn them!

The teacher tips, vocabulary, reward tickets, and review games in the e-book supplement will help you keep the lessons "fun and fascinating."

# ALL THINGS FUN & FASCINATING TEACHER SUPPLEMENT

All the suggestions in this supplement are optional. They are here to help you teach and enrich the lessons in *All Things Fun and Fascinating*. There are seven sections:

I.	Scheduling for the Year	page 2
II.	Tips for Teaching and Answers to Review Qs	page 5
III.	Review Games	page 27
IV.	Vocabulary Words*	page 31
V.	Vocabulary Puzzles and Quizzes	page 38
VI.	Reward Tickets**	page 63
VII.	Parent Hand-Out and Detailed Schedule	page 65

\*Vocabulary Words: These are highly recommended. They are great words chosen to fit easily into many of the assignments, so students will have plenty of opportunity to practice using them. This is the best way to insure that such vocabulary becomes part of the natural writing vocabulary of a student. Puzzles, games, and quizzes are also provided to help students review the words. The words should be copied from pages 31–37 of this e-book and given to students during Lesson 2. Instructions for using them are on page 31 and throughout the teacher tips.

\*\*Reward Tickets: I give my students points (in the form of tickets) for things such as using extra vocabulary words, winning games, scoring 100%, or whatever I determine is worth "points" for a particular assignment. The points are given in tickets (p. 63). Twice a year we have an auction using the tickets the students have earned. Parents each supply 1–3 things (new or used) to auction for this. My students LOVE to see tickets attached to their work and will do just about anything to earn them. They are a great motivator!

#### SCHEDULING FOR THE YEAR

The lessons in *All Things Fun & Fascinating* are designed to be taught weekly. Longer lessons are broken into sections so that students may complete them at their own pace. Younger students may need an entire week for each section, whereas older students may be able to do all the sections in a week.

#### In a Daily Class

If you have class every day, be flexible and work at a pace that is comfortable for your student(s). You have the advantage of being able to break up lessons into daily parts. Here is a suggested week's schedule for Lessons in Units II–VI:

- Day 1: Outline together. Tell back info from outline.
- Day 2: Tell back info from outline again. Brainstorm elements of style.

  Begin the rough draft.
- Day 3 Review Day 2. Finish rough draft. Have Mom or teacher proofread.
- Days 4–5: Write a final draft. (Make corrections and add a picture.)

#### In a Weekly Class Setting

If you are teaching a class that meets only weekly for instruction, the schedule on the following pages will allow time for you to proofread rough drafts before assigning final drafts. I find that students learn much from correcting and polishing their first drafts. I do not grade rough drafts, but proofread them and use the proofreading marks on page 9 of this supplement to mark errors. You should copy this page for each student. It is good to help students develop a habit of writing, proofing, editing, and polishing their work.

**NOTE:** A more detailed schedule (the one I use and give to parents) is part of the parent packet that begins on page 64. It may differ slightly from the schedule on the next page.

## SCHEDULE FOR CLASSES THAT MEET ONCE A WEEK

(For a more detailed schedule, see pages 67–71.)

RD= Rough Draft; **FD**= Final Draft

Week Lesson Teach lesson in class; assign writing for home.

Week	Lesson	Teach lesson in class; assign writing for home.	
1	1	Floating Rocks and More (Note: If winter break will fall on week 14, consider combining Lessons 1 & 2, letting students choose 4 of the 6 sources.)	
2	2	A Giant Leap and More	
3	3	Listen to Oral Reports assigned w/ Ls 2 Belling the Cat RD (Do not teach 3B yet.)	
4	4	The Crow and the Peacocks RD (Do not teach 4B yet.)	
5	3B	Proofreading Marks from Tips for Lesson 3B Read "Belling" rough drafts (see p. 2 above) / Discuss morals Assign Belling the Cat FD	
6	4B	Read "Crow and Peacocks" rough drafts/ Discuss morals Assign <b>The Crow and the Peacocks FD</b> Study for Vocab Quiz 1	
7	5	Ants and Grasshoppers RD (Save moral and alliteration for next week)  Vocab Quiz 1	
8	5	Let students read rough drafts. Offer suggestions as necessary.  Teach alliteration (p. 41) / Discuss morals and titles  Assign Ants and Grasshopper FD	
9	6A	Damocles and the King, Sec I RD	
10	6B	Damocles and the King, Sec. II RD	
11	6C	Damocles and the King, Sec. III RD	
12	7	The Little Dutch Boy RD Study for Vocab Quiz 2	
13	6	In class, share favorite elements of RD of Damocles  Assign all three sections of Damocles and the King  FD	
14	7 Holiday Poetry	Holiday Poetry, pp. 75–78 Assign <b>The Little Dutch Boy FD</b>	
15	9 (opt)	Read holiday poems or The Little Dutch Boy Play a Vocabulary Review Game (Lesson 9 homework optional over WINTER BREAK)	
16	8, 8A	Pecos Bill, Sec I RD	
17	8B	Pecos Bill, Sec II RD	
18	8C	Pecos Bill, Sec III, plus Assign Entire Story FD	

19	10	Busy Beavers RD	
20	11	A Bird with a Tasty Nest RD	Study for Vocab Quiz 3
21	12	Honeybees RD	Vocab Quiz 3
22	13	Army Ants FD (Ask parent to proofread R	(D)
23	14	Amazing Animal Homes FD	Study for Vocab Quiz 4
24	15	The Kite Ride RD	Vocab Quiz 4
25	16	The Fishing Trip RD	
26	15	In class, begin group writing from pictures At home, <b>The Kite Ride FD</b>	(Let students draw pictures.) *See note below
27	16	In class, finish the group writing from pictu At home, <b>The Fishing Trip FD</b>	ires
28	17	Benjamin Franklin RD	
29	18	Louis Braille RD	
30	19	Thomas Edison RD	Study for Vocab Quiz 5
31	20	Men Who Changed the World FD	Vocab Quiz 5
32	21	My Favorite Activity	
33	22	A Special Person	Study for final quiz
34	23	A Special Day	Final Vocabulary Quiz
35	24	Review Games	

<sup>\*</sup>Weeks 26–27: After discussing errors from the rough drafts of the stories written from the pictures in the book, assign the final drafts for homework. Then, in class instruct students to draw a simple picture. Divide the class into groups of 2–4 students. Each group should choose one of the pictures to write about as a group. They will have both class periods to work on their story. Instruct them to tell what happened BEFORE the picture, DURING the picture, and AFTER the picture. They should use the questions on page 108 of their books for help. Encourage the use of dress-ups and openers. Offer tickets for vocabulary words included. If a group finishes too soon, they can always add more elements of style. Remember a creative title. Save time at the end of class on week 27 to let the groups read their stories. These stories should not be graded; they are just for fun and practice. However, you could give tickets for outstanding elements.

# KEY WORD OUTLINES (IEW Unit I): Fun Facts from Science

# LESSON 1 FLOATING ROCKS

**Goal:** To practice key word outlining

Key word outlining will help you gather information to write about and will help you organize information in your compositions. Before you begin to write, you should practice key word outlining.

# The Assignment

- 1. Read "Floating Rocks" (page 4) all the way through. Then reread it, one sentence at a time. On the blank outline on page 5, with the help of your teacher, write no more than three key words from each sentence. Choose words that will help you remember the idea of the sentence. You may use abbreviations and symbols. These do not count as one of your three words. (See page 10.)
- 2. Using only your key word outline, try to tell back the information in your own words in complete sentences. Do this out loud for your teacher or parent.
- 3. Repeat this process with pages 6–9.

**Teacher note:** You can have some fun helping students learn some common abbreviations and symbols if, one at a time, you write the symbols from page 10 on the whiteboard and see if the students can guess what they mean.

# TIPS FOR TEACHING and ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUESTIONS

#### LESSON 1 FLOATING ROCKS AND MORE

In a class, outline together at least the first source text. Let students choose the three (or fewer) words for each sentence, then you write the words on the whiteboard. Encourage the use of simple symbols and abbreviations. (See Teacher Note on page 3.) Students may then write their choice of words and abbreviations on their outline. Here is a sample outline for "Floating Rocks" using symbols and abbreviations.

#### I. mil., rocks, floating, sol syst

- 1. some, pulled, Earth
- 2. burn, zoom, air
- 3. look, stars
- 4. most, < grain, sand
- 5. few,  $\lg$ , ground  $\rightarrow$  crater
- 6. **♦** worry, only 1 killed
- 7. dog, Egypt, 1911
- 8. atmosphere, good, protecting

When the outline is finished, call on one student at a time to tell back the information from one of the lines in a complete sentence.

If there is class time left, allow students to outline the next source, "The Stinking Giant," on their own. Students will complete the remaining outlines at home during the week.

(Note: Lessons 1 and 2 may be combined by allowing students to choose 4 of the 6 source texts for outlining. I do this if I need to in order to reach the holiday poetry lesson before break. Each year this depends on what day of the week I am teaching in relation to holidays like Labor Day and Thanksgiving.)

## **FLOATING ROCKS**

Did you know that there are millions of rocks floating in our solar system? Some of these get pulled toward Earth. Then they burn brightly as they zoom through the air. They look like falling stars. Most of the rocks are no larger than a grain of sand, so they burn up before they hit the earth. However, a few larger ones have reached the ground and left huge craters. But don't worry—only one is known to have killed a living creature. It hit a dog in Egypt in 1911. Our atmosphere does a wonderful job of protecting us from falling rocks.



# **OUTLINE**

I	
	1
	2.
	3.
2	4.
:	5.
(	5
,	7
	8.

Remember, you may use symbols and abbreviations, and they do not count as words. Can you guess what the following symbols and abbreviations might mean? Create your own.

sol. syst. (solar system)
< gr sand (smaller than a grain of sand)

lg, hit → craters (when large ones hit, they leave craters)

# THE STINKING GIANT

The rafflesia is the biggest flower in the world. Its bloom can be three feet wide. It takes two years to form and stays open for a week. Unlike other flowers, it has no stem or leaves. It grows on the roots of another plant. You do not want to get too close to this giant flower, though, because its big blossom gives off a big stink! Some people say that it smells like rotting meat. Because of the awful smell, the rafflesia is also called a "corpse flower" or a "stinking lily."

# **OUTLINE**

I	
1	
5	
6	
7	

# SUMMARIZING REFERENCES (IEW Unit IV): Amazing Animals

# LESSON 11 A BIRD WITH A TASTY NEST

**Goal:** To continue to practice summarizing references

#### Review

- 1. What is the topic-clincher rule? (p. 80)
- 2. How do you indicate the key words in the topic sentence and clincher that tell the topic of the paragraph? (p. 85)

# The Assignment

- 1. Read the source text on page 88. Follow the same steps you followed in Lesson 10 to write one paragraph about swiftlets' nests. Be sure to have a clear topic sentence and clincher.
- 2. There is a Grammar Help on page 91.
- 3. The checklist is on page 92.

#### A BIRD WITH A TASTY NEST

Swiftlets are birds that make nests tasty enough to eat! Their nests are not made from sticks like other birds' nests because swiftlets do not live in trees. These birds live in caves in Asia. They craft their nests from their saliva (spit). How?

First, with its tongue, the male outlines the shape of the nest on the cave wall. Next, the male and female work together. They expel a layer of saliva over the outline. Their saliva is very thick and hardens quickly. Then they expel more saliva. They keep layering on the saliva. Soon the nest looks like half of a bowl stuck to the cave wall. Now the nest is ready. It looks and feels like dried white glue.

One cave may have hundreds of swiftlets' nests. Men go into the caves to gather them. It is very dangerous, but they do it because the nests are very valuable. One pound of nests is worth almost \$1000!

Who buys the nests? Chefs buy them. They use them to make bird's nest soup. This soup is considered a delicacy in Asia. One bowl of it contains only a few pieces of nest, but it can cost up to \$100. The swiftlet probably has not only the tastiest home, but also the most expensive home in the animal world!



*Note:* If you outline on a separate sheet of paper, it will be easier to use the outline with the brainstorming page and the checklist.

# **KEY WORD OUTLINE**

I. Topic	e Sentence: swiftlets', nests
1	
1	
2	
2	
3	
4	i
<b>—</b> 5	5.
ose ast	
ts,	
6	
7.	
L <sub>7</sub>	
au. 4	
Clinch	er:

# **Brainstorming Elements of Style**

**Quality Adjectives** 

Find nouns (people, animals, places, or things) quality adjectives that could describe each. Her	
caves:	
nests:	
What other nouns could you describe?	
Strong Verbs & -ly Words	
Replace these boring verbs with strong verbs. A	Add -ly words.
Strong Verbs	-ly Words
Swiftlets <b>make</b> their nests.	
Men <b>get</b> the nests.	
Your ideas	
	L
Decoration Idea	

# Grammar Help

#### **POSSESSIVE NOUNS**

For singular nouns, add an 's:

The boy's dog = the dog that belongs to the boy

For plural nouns that end in *s*, just add the apostrophe:

*The boys' dog* = the dog that belongs to more than one boy

For plural nouns that do not end in an *s*, add an 's:

*The children's dog* = the dog that belongs to the children

#### **Practice Exercise**

Review the Grammar Help on page 80 as well as the Grammar Help above. Circle the correct word in each of the parentheses.

- 1. (Swiftlet's, Swiftlets') nests are made of spit.
- 2. (There, Their) saliva is thick and dries quickly.
- 3. One (swiftlet's, swiftlets') eggs are safe in each nest.
- 4. The male uses (its, it's, its') tongue to outline the nest.

# Lesson 11

# CHECKLIST "A Bird with a Tasty Nest"

<u>Structure</u>	
Paragraph has a topic sentence (Key words highlighted)	(3 pts)
Paragraph ends with a clincher (Words reflected from the topic sentence are highlighted)	(3 pts)
Title reflects words from clincher	(5 pts)
Style (Worth 2 pts each)	
<b>Dress-ups</b> (Underline one of each and label in right margin)	
Strong verb (v)	
-ly word (ly)	
Quality adjective (adj)	
Who/which clause (w/w)	
Sentence Openers (Number each in left margin)	
#3 -ly word	
#6 vss (2–5 words)	
<b>Decorations</b> (One required. Label in right margin)	
Alliteration (allit) or Simile (sim)	
No banned words	(-1 ea)

TOTAL (Possible 25)

# CREATIVE WRITING (IEW Unit VII): My Favorite Things

# LESSON 21 MY FAVORITE ACTIVITY

Goal: To learn to ask questions to help you write from your own ideas

#### **Notes from Your Brain**

In the final lessons of this book, you will be given prompts that tell you what to write about, but you will not be given source texts or pictures. Where will you get your ideas about what to write? From your brain! How will you get the ideas out of your brain? By asking yourself questions.

Here is the prompt for this lesson:

Write about one of your favorite activities. An activity could be as simple as playing with a particular toy or as special as going on camping trips with your family. What do you like to do?

# The Assignment

- 1. Before you begin writing, you must outline your ideas so that your paragraph will be well organized. On page 143, write key word notes that will help you write a clear topic sentence. (This should be the answer to the question in the prompt: What is one of your favorite activities?)
- 2. Now you will need to write notes about what you will say about the activity. To help with this, think about the answers to questions similar to the questions in the box on page 142.

- Make up more of your own questions and answer them. The question starter words in the box on page 143 will help you.
   Memorize these question starter words.
- 4. When you have 5–7 lines of notes, add an idea for a clincher that repeats words from your topic sentence.
- 5. Use your outline to guide you in writing a paragraph. You may add details as you write. You may omit some of the notes. You may write the ideas in a different order from your notes (except for the topic sentence and clincher). The notes are only a guide to help your ideas flow.
- 6. Be sure to include everything on the checklist on page 144.

# **SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

What do you like about the activity? Why?

When and where do you do the activity?

Who does it with you?

*How* often are you able to do it?

*How* do you feel about it? How do you show your feelings?

What is the *best thing* about the activity? *Why?* 

# **MY FAVORITE ACTIVITY**

# **OUTLINE**

Topic Sent):	
1	WHO?
2	WHAT?
	WHEN?
3.	WHERE?
	WHY?
4.	HOW?
5.	HOW FEEL?
	BEST?
6.	PROBLEMS

143

(Repeat or reflect 2–3 words from the topic sentence.)

# Lesson 21

# CHECKLIST My Favorite Activity

<b>Structure</b>				
Topic Sentence	(3 pts)			
Clincher (Words rej	(2 pts)			
Title reflects w		(2 pts)		
	nust contain at least one			th 2 pts each)
Strong verb (v	)			
-ly word (ly)				
Quality adjecti	ve (adj)			
Who/which cla	use (w/w)			
Because clause	(cl)			
Sentence Oper	ners (Number each in	left margin.)		
#3 -ly word		5 ,		
#6 vss (2–5 w	vords)			
<b>Decorations</b> (C	Choose <i>one</i> anywhere in	ı your essay. L	abel in right marg	in.)
Alliteration	Conversation	3sss	Simile	
No banned words		,	<u>,</u>	(-1 ea)
	L			
				(Possible 25

# LESSON 24 FINAL REVIEW

Review the things you have learned this year by playing the "Question Bag Game." Instructions are on page 154. Use the following questions.



- **OUESTION BAG GAME OUESTIONS** Name three banned adjectives and give a substitute for each. 1. 2. Name three banned verbs and give a substitute for each. 3. List the dress-ups you have learned. What are the three sentence openers you learned (other than a #1)? 4 5. Report paragraphs should begin with a sentence. 6. What should the clincher of a report paragraph do? 7. The time and place of a story is called the 8. The main problem of a story is called the 9 In a story, the event that leads to the problem being solved is the what? 10. How should you create a title? 11. What is the difference in the meanings of *it's* and *its*? 12. What is the difference in the meanings of *there* and *their*? 13. What are the question starter words?
- 15. What's wrong with the following sentence:

14. Name five prepositions (#2 openers).

My teacher, who works hard to help us.

## THE QUESTION BAG GAME

To prepare:

- 1. Obtain a small gift bag (or basket). Draw a big question mark on it.
- 2. Obtain fifteen 3x5" note cards. On each write one number, 1–15. Put the cards in the bag.

To play, each player or team, in turn, should do the following:

- 1. Choose a question number from the bag.
- 2. Find the matching question from the list of numbered questions on page 153. If they answer correctly, the team rolls a die to determine the number of points they receive. If they answer incorrectly, the question number card should be left out of the bag. It is now worth double points if another team chooses it and answers it correctly.
- 3. Continue until all questions have been answered, being sure that each team is allowed the same number of turns. (You may have to add or delete a question to accomplish this.)

With only one student: Play teacher against student. Your student will hear and learn from your answers. Rolling the die will make the winner random.

# APPENDIX STYLE HELPS

This appendix contains word lists that will help students use the elements of style taught in this course. These include the following: banned words and prepositions (below), quality adjectives, strong verbs, and -ly words.

BANNED WORDS					
<u>VERBS</u>	<b>ADJECTIVES</b>				
go / went	good / bad				
come / came	nice / mean				
say / said	pretty / ugly				
get / got	big / a lot				

SOME COMMON PREPOSITIONS (#2 sentence openers)						
about	beside	except	like	over		
across	by	for	near	through		
after	concerning	from	of	to		
among	despite	in	off	until		
around	down	instead of	on	up		
at	during	into	out	with(out)		

# **QUALITY ADJECTIVES**

GOOD	<b>PRETTY</b>	<u>NICE</u>	INTERESTING
adept	beautiful	agreeable	astonishing
admirable	elegant	charming	baffling
awesome	enticing	delightful	captivating
clever	exquisite	genial	incredible
cunning	glorious	kind	fascinating
flourishing	glowing	pleasant	intriguing
holy	golden	sweet	mysterious
honorable	lovely	cordial	puzzling
magnificent	ornate	friendly	
majestic	stunning		
powerful	vibrant		
praiseworthy	radiant		<b>BIG</b>
respectable	captivating		broad
sacred	breathtaking		colossal
terrific	colorful		enormous
delicious	majestic		huge
delectable	lush		massive
yummy	ravishing		towering
savory			sizeable
nourishing			vast
prudent			immense
wise			monstrous
ingenious			