





**OLDER READERS  
ACTIVITY KIT**  
AGES 10 YEARS AND OLDER

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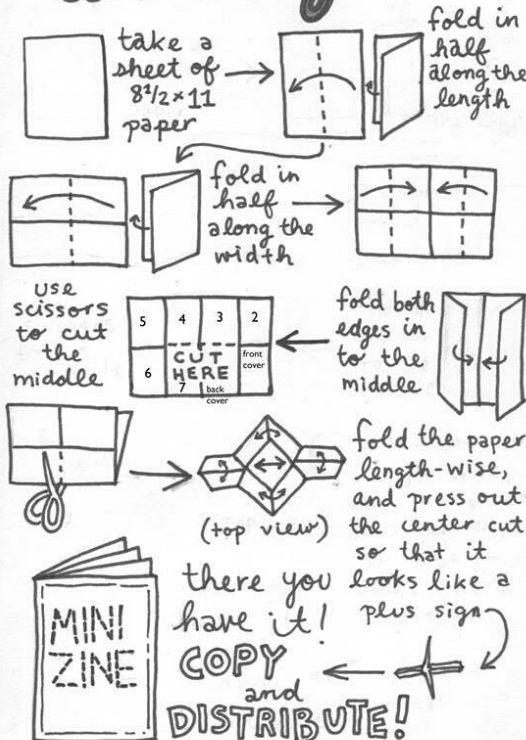
## HOW TO MAKE A MINI ZINE

A zine (pronounced “zeen”) is a self-published magazine. The coolest thing about them is that anyone can make one, and they can be about any subject. Want to write a story or a poem? You can put it in a zine! Interested in comics or making your own art? Those can go in a zine, too! Have a bunch of magazines or newspapers at home? You can cut them up (with permission, of course), then tape or glue whatever you’d like and put that in a zine. There are no rules when it comes to zine making, so have fun with it!

You can find instructions on how to make your own mini zine, as well as some writing prompts, below. All you’ll need is a blank sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 paper and a pair of scissors. Enjoy!

### Writing Prompts

### how to make a mini zine



- Top 10: Pick a subject that you enjoy, like movies, sports teams, or ice cream flavors, then list your top 10 favorites.
- Write a story that starts with the line, “The door was open...”
- Make an acrostic poem. The first letter of each line spells out a word or phrase. You can even use your own name. An example is:  
**D**elightful  
**O**bedient  
**G**reat
- Think about what you’re really good at and write about how you would use those talents if you were a superhero.
- Write a “how to.” How to make a sandwich, how to get a million followers on TikTok, how to be a good friend. There are so many options!
- Write an original song.



## BUILD A WORD

Put your vocabulary to the test with this fun and challenging word-building activity! You can play this game with others in your household, or individually.

### If playing with others...

1. Split into 2 teams.
2. Select one of the words provided in **the word bank** on the next page, or any four-letter word!
3. Play rock, paper, scissors to determine which team will go first.
4. The winning team will select one member to change the selected word, either by adding a new letter, subtracting a letter, or replacing a letter with a new one. You can only change, add, or take away one letter per turn to create a new word.
5. Once you create a new word, switch to the next team. That team will now build off the new word that was just created, and so on. You receive one point for each word your team creates.
6. If a team cannot come up with a new word, move onto the next team. If no one can create a new word—tally up your points, the game is over!

### If playing individually...

1. Set a timer for 5 minutes and see how many words you can build off one of the words provided in **the word bank**, or any four-letter word!

### ACTIVITY EXAMPLE





## FOUR QUICK IMPROV GAMES

These short games require no materials and are a fun way to pass the time with family/friends or give you a brain break from reading or studying at home!

1

### Why are you late?

One person starts by saying, “Sorry I’m late...”, and the rest of the group asks “Why are you late?” The person responds by explaining the plot to a movie as the reason they are late (as one of the characters of the movie). The rest of the group tries to figure out which movie the person is describing, and everyone calls out their guesses. The person continues giving more and more details until someone shouts out the right movie. When someone has guessed it right, they go next with a new movie!

#### ACTIVITY EXAMPLE

Sorry I’m late!

Person 1:

Why are you late?

Everyone else:

I’m late because I was living in the ocean and lost my son. I vowed I would find my son even though I was really scared. I met a new friend who was a fish who had a really bad memory. Then I ran into sharks, and a sea turtle...

Person 1:

Finding Nemo!

Someone in the group:

2

### Zen Count

Everyone in the group stands or sits in a circle or at a table and closes their eyes. The group counts upwards starting at one, with one person talking at a time. There should be no specific order that people are talking (do not just go around the circle or go in the same pattern each time). The goal of the game is to count up to as high a number as possible without two people talking at once. Record your high score and try to beat it next time!

## FOUR QUICK IMPROV GAMES

3

### Mind Meld

A group of people stands or sits in a circle. Two people count to three together then at the same time each says whatever word comes to their head. Then, one of the people who just went will go to the next person in the circle and try to figure out a word that connects the two previous words, or say a word that they have in common. For example, if at the count of three, Person A says "lake!" and Person B says "dog!", then Person B and Person C are trying to think of a word that connects to both "lake" and "dog". Person B might say "beach!" and Person C might say "park!", and then Person C and Person D try to find a word in common with "beach" and "park". The goal is for both people to say the same word at the same time! It may take multiple rounds around the circle to get there but you all will feel very accomplished when two people get it!

4

### One Word Story

Players stand or sit in a circle. One person says a single word to begin a story. The next person in the circle says another word to continue the story, and so on continuing around the circle. The object is to tell a coherent story, one word at a time.

#### ACTIVITY EXAMPLE

There

Person 1:

once

Person 2:

was

Person 3:

a

Person 4:

cat

Person 1:

[continues until the group feels the story is finished]



## MAKE YOUR OWN MAD LIBS

Mad Libs are stories where certain words are taken out and replaced with blank spaces. Those blank spaces could be nouns, verbs, adjectives, colors, and more. To play Mad Libs, you'll need at least two people: one person who has seen the story ("the reader") and one person (or more) who hasn't. The reader will ask the others for words that can fill in the blank. For example, "Give me a noun," or "Tell me your favorite color." There are no "right" words to use in Mad Libs; people can say the first thing that comes to their mind. As the reader is given these suggestions, they will write the responses in the blank spaces. Once all the blank spaces are filled, the entire story is read out loud.

You can find Mad Libs worksheets online or buy a book of them from the store, but it's also easy and fun to make your own! Here's how:

1

Write a story.

Your story can be as long or as short as you like. **Here's an example:** Every day, I dreamed of owning a comic bookstore. It would be on a busy street, and the store would always be full of people. The door would be yellow, like Wonder Woman's lasso, and you could find any comic book you ever wanted. I would run to the store every day, because being there made me happy.

.....  
**Now you try:**



## MAKE YOUR OWN MAD LIBS

2

Take out some words.

When you take out a word, you'll replace it with a blank space, and then write down the type of word you want to replace, like a noun, verb, or adjective. **Here is an example:** Every day, I dreamed of owning a comic \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). It would be on a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) street, and the store would always be full of \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). The door would be \_\_\_\_\_ (color), like Wonder Woman's \_\_\_\_\_ (noun), and you could find any comic \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) you ever wanted. I would \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) to the store every day, because being there made me \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective).

.....  
**Now you try:**



## MAKE YOUR OWN MAD LIBS

3

Ask for word suggestions.

Remember, you need at least one other person to play Mad Libs with. Start with each blank space, and ask them for a word. In the example above, you would ask someone for a noun, an adjective, a noun, and so on. As they give you a word, write it down in the blank space on the previous page.

4

Read the story out loud.

Once all the blank spaces have been filled in, you can read the entire story out loud. **Here is an example:** Every day, I dreamed of owning a comic **leopard**. It would be on a **scary** street, and the store would always be full of **Chicago**. The door would be **silver and red**, like Wonder Woman's **books**, and you could find any comic **Havarti cheese** you ever wanted. I would **jump** to the store every day, because being there made me **ecstatic**.

5

Try writing another one!



## READING AND WRITING TIC-TAC-TOE

Play a fun game of tic-tac-toe with a family member, or by yourself. Complete 3 activities horizontally, vertically, or diagonally to win!

Write a 5-sentence summary about a TV show or movie that you have watched over this break.

Explain the most important details, and answer whether or not you would recommend it to one of your friends, or someone in your family!

Write an acrostic poem about any topic, including yourself!

For example:  
D-delightful  
O-overjoyed about treats  
G-guardian  
S-smart

Write a paragraph describing your favorite place, but don't include the name! Make sure to use the five senses in your description (sight, smell, taste, touch, sound).

Once you're finished, share it with a friend or family member, and see if they can guess the place!

Head online for some fun, reading comprehension games!

This [link](#) is set to 5th grade, but you can change your grade level on the menu at the side of the webpage.

Go on one of the virtual field trips [linked here!](#)

Make a list of 5 cool things you saw or learned from the zoos or museums available.

For fun, make sure to check out a few of the rides at Walt Disney World!!

Set a timer for 30 minutes, and spend that time reading any book of your choice!

Here is a [link](#) to some great articles if you're looking for something new to read!

Write a letter to someone who does not live with you (a friend, relative, or your teacher!) telling them what you've been up to! You can write a story, ask questions, or give them recommendations of fun things to do while at home!

Interview a family member! Create a list of 5-10 questions you have always wanted to ask a member of your family. If they live with you, feel free to conduct the interview in person! If not, this is a great time to call a relative on the phone.

Read a text (book, comic, or article) and search for the definitions of 3 new or unfamiliar words at [learnersdictionary.com](http://learnersdictionary.com)

Write out the word, its definition, and draw a picture if you'd like!



## LOOPING

Looping is a fun freewriting activity that can be used for pre-writing essays or just for fun creative writing! It can also help focus your ideas continually while trying to discover a writing topic or story.

**1** First, pick a prompt from school, from the examples below, or think of your own prompt to begin writing.

After you pick your prompt, write freely about the topic in response to the prompt for 5 minutes. Do not spend time on editing or spelling, the purpose for the activity is expressing your thoughts, so use your time with that focus in mind and don't stop to make corrections for the entirety of the exercise.

**2** After the time for the first free write is over, read over your work. Identify a sentence or two that captures the key thought or idea expressed your writing. Or if it is fiction, you can pick what sentence you think is most interesting.

**3** Begin to write again, with the selected idea/sentence as your starting point. Use that sentence to inspire whatever you write next, it should be different than what you wrote in your first "loop". Free write again for 5 minutes.

**4** When you have finished your second "loop", again identify a sentence or idea to start a third "loop".

**5** Continue this process and loop your freewriting as many times as necessary, circling another interesting topic, idea, phrase, or sentence each time. At the end you should have a sequence of freewritings, each more specific than the last.

**6** After a few rounds, you may have found what specific topic you want to keep writing about. If you find yourself really interested in writing a specific story or about a specific topic, keep writing that story and draw pictures to go along with it!

**7**



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

If you could be any made-up animal, what would you be? Feel free to choose something from a book or tv show you know or invent your own creature.



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

If you could choose to be any superhero or have any superpower, who or what would it be and why?

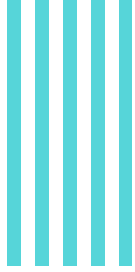
A large, empty rectangular area outlined in orange, intended for students to write their responses to the writing prompt. It occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

Two friends are walking home from school when they discover a time machine, and they decide to try it out. Which time period do they travel to? What happens once they arrive?

A large, empty rectangular area outlined in orange, intended for students to write their response to the writing prompt. It occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

Write a story about going on an adventure with your best friend(s).

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin orange border, intended for writing a story.



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

Write a story about a student who is starting at a new school. What are they feeling? How will they meet new friends?





## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

Write a story about a character who is the same age as you are, but living life 100 years in the future.

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## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

It's hard to hear over the roaring of the spaceship, but the person on the intercom declares that the mission is almost complete. "Next stop is Mars, the red planet!" What happens next?

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## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

If you could build a dream house, what rooms would it have?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin orange border, intended for students to write their responses to the writing prompt.



## LOOPING: WRITING PROMPTS

Finish this sentence then keep the story going: It was a dark and stormy night, and suddenly, the lights went out in the house...

A large, empty rectangular area outlined in orange, intended for students to write their response to the writing prompt. It occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.