

# *Hot Topics* **October**

<b>A Funny Dream</b>	<b>My Allowance</b>	<b>I was embarrassed when...</b>	<b>The Broken Window</b>	<b>Under My Bed</b>
<b>If I Were Invisible</b>	<b>Clouds remind me of...</b>	<b>Chocolate Pudding</b>	<b>I found a...</b>	<b>When I Was Two</b>
<b>Dinosaurs</b>	<b>The Biggest Mess I Ever Made</b>	<b>A Place I Would Like to Visit</b>	<b>I am angry when...</b>	<b>In the Dark</b>
<b>Making a Sandwich</b>	<b>Bats</b>	<b>Night Sounds</b>	<b>I am most afraid of...</b>	<b>Worms</b>
<b>Really Rapid Runners (Write a story with "r" words.)</b>	<b>Tricks</b>	<b>Treats</b>	<b>Bedtime</b>	<b>My Sister (Brother, Cousin, etc.)</b>

# November

<b>If I were an animal, I would be a...</b>	<b>On the way home from school...</b>	<b>The Most Important Person I Know</b>	<b>I hate to...</b>	<b>A Lucky Day</b>
<b>Skunks</b>	<b>The Food I Like the Most</b>	<b>The Food I Hate the Most</b>	<b>A Haircut</b>	<b>Nuts</b>
<b>Old Socks</b>	<b>It Wasn't My Fault!</b>	<b>If I were a garbage can, I would say...</b>	<b>Magic Tricks</b>	<b>What Makes Me Cry</b>
<b>I like to...</b>	<b>How to Grow a Pumpkin</b>	<b>Pumpkin Pie</b>	<b>My Favorite Way to Travel</b>	<b>When I am sad, I...</b>
<b>My New Bike</b>	<b>Hamburgers</b>	<b>Signs of Winter</b>	<b>When I can't sleep, I...</b>	<b>Grandma's House</b>

# December

<b>On a stormy day, I...</b>	<b>How to Keep Warm</b>	<b>Cookies</b>	<b>Snowflakes</b>	<b>Fun with a Sled</b>
<b>Mittens</b>	<b>Computers</b>	<b>How to Build a Snowman</b>	<b>When I am cold, I...</b>	<b>When I have to play indoors, I...</b>
<b>A Ski Trip</b>	<b>Little Things</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>My Amazing Robot</b>	<b>At the Movies</b>
<b>Hibernation</b>	<b>Winter Smells</b>	<b>When I fix my own breakfast, I...</b>	<b>Trains</b>	<b>Hot Dogs</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>When I am lonely, I...</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Baby-sitters</b>	<b>Dreams</b>

# January

<b>My New Year's Resolutions</b>	<b>A Bad Cold</b>	<b>In My Pocket</b>	<b>Elephants</b>	<b>If I had a camera, I would...</b>
<b>Before I go to school, I...</b>	<b>Waffles</b>	<b>Green Things</b>	<b>Birthday Cake</b>	<b>My Nickname</b>
<b>A Bear in Winter</b>	<b>When my relatives come...</b>	<b>A Mouse in My House</b>	<b>Thunder and Lightning</b>	<b>Balloons</b>
<b>Sounds That Make Me Happy</b>	<b>Teeth</b>	<b>The Best Taste in the World</b>	<b>If I found \$5...</b>	<b>List as many "p" words as you can</b>
<b>I am curious when...</b>	<b>Liver</b>	<b>Why Zebras Have Stripes</b>	<b>I lost my ...</b>	<b>Trees</b>

# February

<b>Friendship</b>	<b>Love</b>	<b>Funny Places</b>	<b>Purple</b>	<b>Mosquitos</b>
<b>Sticky Things</b>	<b>My Favorite Cartoon</b>	<b>Hearts</b>	<b>List "friendly" words. Can you think of 10?</b>	<b>It made me say "ouch"</b>
<b>Dear Mr. President,</b>	<b>My Nose</b>	<b>It makes me nervous when...</b>	<b>Bananas</b>	<b>If I were a whale, I would say...</b>
<b>I read it in the newspaper</b>	<b>If you were a pencil, what would you write?</b>	<b>How would you get your cat down out of a 10 foot tree?</b>	<b>The 10 Biggest Things I Have Ever Seen</b>	<b>Unusual Animals</b>
<b>What if honey bees were as big as elephants?</b>	<b>The Telephone Rang</b>	<b>Mushrooms</b>	<b>I can do it by myself.</b>	<b>How to Say I'm Sorry</b>

# April

<b>The Greatest Invention</b>	<b>A Visitor from Outer Space</b>	<b>It's Raining Cats and Dogs</b>	<b>The Griblix</b>	<b>Yuk!</b>
<b>My Favorite Toy</b>	<b>Cute, Cuddly Cats (Write a story with "c" words.)</b>	<b>I would like to meet...</b>	<b>Alone in the House</b>	<b>Dirt</b>
<b>Things I Think About at Night</b>	<b>If I Were President of the U.S.A.</b>	<b>I Couldn't Believe My Eyes</b>	<b>List "wet" words. Write sentences with them.</b>	<b>Fire!</b>
<b>Spaghetti</b>	<b>Floating on a Cloud</b>	<b>What I Like About Me</b>	<b>Now That's Funny!</b>	<b>My Home</b>
<b>What If Money Grew on Trees</b>	<b>My Grandfather</b>	<b>Ten Excuses for Not Doing My Homework</b>	<b>Why is the sky blue?</b>	<b>How to Ride a Bike</b>

# May

<b>Strange Footprints</b>	<b>How to Wash a Car</b>	<b>My Mother</b>	<b>What If People Could Fly</b>	<b>Pickles</b>
<b>The Worst Day Ever</b>	<b>If I Had Three Wishes</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Wonderful Smells</b>	<b>Old Shoes</b>
<b>List soft, gentle words. Write a sentence or two.</b>	<b>If I Were Magic</b>	<b>The Loudest Noise in The World</b>	<b>I'm afraid of...</b>	<b>If I Were One Inch Tall</b>
<b>When I'm An Adult</b>	<b>Something Beautiful</b>	<b>In My Backyard</b>	<b>I Didn't Mean To Do It</b>	<b>An Empty Box</b>
<b>Spring on Mars</b>	<b>The Funny Clown</b>	<b>Ten Things I'd Like to Do Someday</b>	<b>My Dog Talked to Me</b>	<b>The Sun</b>

# June

<b>I like being a boy (or girl) because...</b>	<b>When School Is Out</b>	<b>My Ten Favorite Things</b>	<b>Report Cards</b>	<b>Soda Pop</b>
<b>Look Out!</b>	<b>When I Broke a Rule</b>	<b>My Father</b>	<b>If I Didn't Go to School</b>	<b>It's So Hot!</b>
<b>The Principal</b>	<b>Under the Sea</b>	<b>Chicken Eggs</b>	<b>On the Playground</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>What If Everyone Looked Alike?</b>	<b>My Magic Shoes</b>	<b>Sometimes I worry about...</b>	<b>The Best Pizza</b>	<b>Stars</b>
<b>I've Never Been So Scared (or other emotions)</b>	<b>The Mysterious Bottle</b>	<b>Right now I would like to be in...</b>	<b>In the Cupboard</b>	<b>The Last Day of School</b>



## Journal Topics – Would You Rather...

- Would you rather go to Disneyland or get a new cat or dog?
- Would you rather win a big contest and be interviewed on TV or find \$1,000?
- Would you rather attend the movies or have your best friend spend the night?
- Would you rather play guitar in a world-famous rock band or win a gold medal at the Olympics?
- Would you rather discover that you bit through a worm in an apple or take a big gulp of milk and find out it was really spoiled?
- Would you rather go to an all-you-can-eat pizza restaurant or an all-you-can-eat ice cream parlor?
- Would you rather find out you did the wrong homework assignment or forget to tell your parents about an important phone message?
- Would you rather get invited to a birthday party or spend the afternoon at the zoo?
- Would you rather have to stand in front of the whole school at an assembly and sing a song or do a back flip off a diving board at a swim meet?

- Would you rather be able to play a musical instrument well or be good at sports?
- Would you rather get locked overnight in a museum exhibit filled with dinosaur bones or in a big aquarium?
- Would you rather have your own laptop computer or your own fancy cell phone?
- Would you rather spend the day sick in bed on your birthday or on your favorite holiday such as Christmas?
- Would you rather attend a baseball game or a science museum?
- Would you rather play a board game or shoot baskets?
- Would you rather be able to read any book in 5 minutes or be able to run 60 miles an hour?
- Would you rather have to baby-sit and hold a friend's pet snake or pet tarantula?
- Would you rather have your own horse or your own motorcycle?
- Would you rather be a dog or a cat?
- Would you rather be able to fly or be able to talk to animals?

### CREATIVE ANY THING

#### Mix and Match - Improvise and Have Fun!

Using this list, choose one item from each column and weave into a story. Allowing each student time to "think it up," take turns telling your stories out loud.

#### Characters

an invisible man  
a scientist  
a mermaid  
an Indian fighter  
a Leprechaun  
a dancing frog  
a doctor  
a mountain climber  
an astronaut  
a test pilot  
a secret agent  
a cruel king  
a skindiver  
a huge boa constrictor  
a monster  
a man-eating rabbit  
a pirate  
a witch  
a lion tamer  
a talking tree  
a dreadful bear  
a giant  
a bullfighter  
a General  
a beatnik  
a detective  
a goldminer  
a wild game hunter  
a singing turtle  
a huge dinosaur  
a giant octopus  
a truck driver  
a man-eating plant  
an explorer  
a cowboy  
a nurse  
a race car driver  
a millionaire  
a head hunter

#### Setting

at a carnival  
on a fishing boat  
in a submarine  
in a swamp  
in a museum  
in a forest  
on a high building  
on a train  
at the zoo  
in the desert  
under a rock  
in the past  
under the sea  
in a car  
in a castle  
in a tree  
in a strange land  
in the jungle  
on an airliner  
on a raft  
in a park  
on a spaceship  
in a balloon  
on a river  
on another planet  
at the bottom of  
the sea  
in a cave  
in a lake  
on the moon  
in a motor boat  
in Alaska  
on a mountain  
on a roller coaster  
on a lonely road  
Outer Space  
in a lighthouse  
in a dark tunnel  
in a haunted house  
on a lonely island

#### Conflict

a telephone call  
an interesting box  
a wishing well  
a string of pearls  
strange music is heard  
caught in a trap  
a hurricane  
a flood  
a mysterious letter  
finding a mermaid  
a flying saucer  
hunting for treasure  
in a forest fire  
a cloudy night  
a telegram  
flashing lights are seen  
a lost animal  
something is falling  
a foggy night  
a prehistoric fossil  
a bag full of jewels  
a secret document  
a hot day  
a fire starts  
a giant spider web  
an earthquake  
someone is lost  
a galloping horse appears  
strange footsteps are  
heard  
a space ship lands  
a volcano erupts  
the clock strikes 12  
midnight  
during a snowstorm  
a strange sound is heard  
a landslide  
someone is hurt  
finding an unusual fish  
a moaning sound is heard  
a flashing light is seen  
a strange plant creeps  
along

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

WRITING GENRE: \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you select this piece of writing for your portfolio?

What do you like about this piece?

How could you make this piece better?

teacher remarks:

parent remarks: