

Story Sparkers!

Story Sparkers inspire creative, lively writing by providing a spark of an idea to get the writer started. Students can look through the cards and select pictures that especially appeal to them.

Students can get story ideas from the pictures alone, or they can turn the cards over and get ideas from the questions.



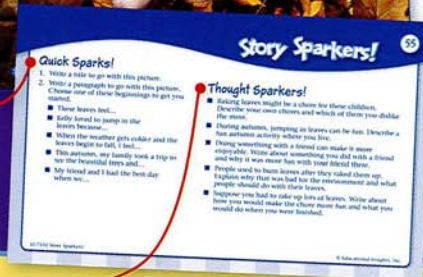
Quick Sparks! are great for a short writing 'warm up' or brief writing exercise.

They help students initiate writing by:

- giving a title to the picture.
- using one of several suggested opening sentences.

Thought Sparkers! are best for when students have a longer period of time to write. They are open-ended questions. Some of the questions focus on:

- **Inference** – Student infers circumstances of an event and provides details of setting, plot, and character.
- **Point of View** – Student is led to consider and choose from different points of view.
- **Relating Self** – Student becomes involved, relating the visual impression to his or her own experiences.
- **Creativity** – Student is asked to imagine and relate the details of an imaginary scenario, one that is not necessarily based in reality.
- **Continuity of Time** – Student is asked to consider knowledge/events/emotions in the past and relate them to events and emotions in the present.



(over)

Story Sparkers cards can be used with students at a variety of levels.

Oral Expression

For primary students, or for any student who needs help with oral expression, the pictures can be used to stimulate verbal fluency.

- Students can select and describe pictures.
- The teacher can read the questions to the students who can respond orally.
- The cards can be used for independent activities using a recording device. The teacher can record directions and the student, in turn, can record his/her responses.

Individual, Group, or Whole-Class Work

Story Sparkers can be used for individual, group, or whole-class activities. Some possibilities are:

- Students can select cards from the box independently.
- Teacher selects one or more pictures to project for the entire class to see at the same time.
- Teacher mounts a select group of pictures on a bulletin board. The questions can be duplicated and posted next to the pictures.

Encourage your students to try out different genres of writing.

Here are some writing genres that your students might explore using Story Sparkers cards:

Descriptive – Describe something (person, place, or thing) in vivid detail.

Narrative – Write about an experience or event in an interesting way, such as in the form of a short story.

Persuasive – Persuade the reader of a specific point of view or of the need to take action.

Expository – Provide information, such as in the form of a report, newspaper article, or instructions.

Poetry – Writing as an art form that communicates an idea or experience.



Story Sparkers!

Quick Sparks!

1. Write a title for this picture.
2. Write a paragraph to go with the picture. Choose one of these beginnings to get you started.
 - I couldn't believe my eyes when I got on the bus and saw...
 - "Hey driver, how much further before..."
 - We were on a bus, on our way to...
 - After their successful win, the team of Frisbee-playing dogs was heading...
 - When we decided to go to the dog show, we had no idea that meant...

Thought Sparkers!

- Suppose dogs could choose a holiday destination. Where do you think they would go?
- Do you travel with your pet? What do you have to think about to make sure the trip goes smoothly for you and your pet?
- Suppose these dogs could describe their bus trip. What do you think they would say?
- Have you ever taken a long trip? What did you do to pass the time?
- Write an imaginary travel diary for one day in the life of one of these dogs.