

Oconto County 4-H

As you work on your project throughout the year, you may find it helpful to take pictures and keep notes. They can come in handy as you plan for ways to share what you have learned and look back on what you've done.

Suggestions for showcasing your project work:

- Tell about what you've learned at **Speaking Fest**
- Show what you've learned at **Demonstration Fest**
- Take your project to the **Oconto County Fair**
- Enter local contests **outside of 4-H** like essay contests, shows and speech contests
- Look for creative ways to share what you've learned with your **club**, your **school** and your **community**

Stay in touch!

Here's how you can contact your key leader(s) this year:

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University of Wisconsin—Extension

Oconto County 4-H

Project Development Committee 2007



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WELCOME TO THE OCONTO COUNTY 4-H CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT!



*The 4-H project literature **Creative Wordworking** is full of fun ideas for writers. In this project, we will have fun exploring the importance of the written language and creative expression. You will get a chance to work on special projects to stimulate your creativity and self-expression through this 4-H project.*

So, sharpen your pencils and grab some paper! Here are activities to do each month of this project year.



Have fun!

Beginning of the Year

Here is what I would like to learn this year (my goal) in the Creative Writing project:

During the Project Year

Here are the steps I will take to meet my goal:

During the Project Year

Here's what I learned, and how I felt about my project experience:

Did you enjoy CREATIVE WRITING?

Was this project fun for you? If not, **that's okay**. It isn't likely that you'll like every project. What's important is that you **tried something new** and that you **learned something**.

What did you learn in this project? What could you have done better? What are you really proud of? These are all good questions to think about when you finish a project.

Thanks for trying out the CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT!

If you liked this project, you should consider signing up for another year! You will get to dig deeper into the project and discover many new and exciting things.

It's never too soon to get started on next year's projects!



See you in the next project year!



December

Have you ever heard of a **commonplace book**? A commonplace book is a place to write down interesting things you have read. This can be anything that you have read that you want to remember, from **quotes** to **bumper stickers**, **stories** or **jokes**. People have made commonplace books for many years. Some commonplace books can be traced back as far as the **Middle Ages**.

We'll start off the year by getting you going on your own commonplace book! All you need is an empty book of some kind (notebooks work fine) and a pencil or other things to write with. Try to keep this book throughout this project year. *Creative Wordworking* has lots of great ideas for commonplace books on page 13, so check it out!

January

Part of being a good writer is being a good **reader**. If you ask many of the most famous writers today, they would say that to be a good writer, you need to read a lot.

This month, pick a book to read. It doesn't have to be long, but try to find a book that is a little more difficult than you normally read. As you're reading the book, look for words and sentences that you like, and write them down (Maybe they could go in your commonplace book!). When you find a word you don't know, grab a **dictionary** or go online and learn the meaning of the word. Interesting words can make creative writing, well, **creative!**



February

Have you ever kept a journal or diary? Keeping your thoughts and memories in a book can be a great way to look back when you're older and see what your brain was doing years ago.



Notes

Creative Wordworking has pages and pages of tips for how to start a journal or diary, as well as lots of ideas to write about on pages 2 to 9.

Worried about people reading your personal thoughts? Check out the link below for **wikiHow's** guide on *How to Find out if People Have Read Your Diary*. Here is a shortened URL that will redirect you to the wikiHow page:

<http://tinyurl.com/235ajv>

For extra fun, check the related articles at the bottom of the page for more diary activities.

March

Creative writing can be **fiction**, **nonfiction** or a mix of the two. What are some places where you can see creative writing that is nonfiction? How about the **newspaper**?

Pick up a newspaper, and read a few articles. What did you like about the journalists' styles? You can also find articles online at websites like **CNN.com** or **Google News**.

Try writing a newspaper article. It can be something that has happened in your club; something that happened in your town; anything, really! Share your article with your club.



Notes

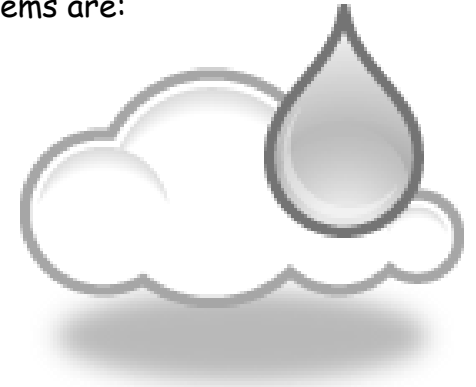


April

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day. Poems can be loads of fun. Whether you're telling a story about medieval knights, or describing the starry sky, poems are a wonderful way to express yourself.

Look up different types of poems, and try writing your own. Some different types of poems are:

- haiku
- ballad
- limerick
- cinquain
- blank verse
- vertical poem



Those are just to get you started. There are many different kinds and styles of poems. Feel free to try out as many as you find interesting. How about making your own kind of poem?

Here are some terms to look up that can help you out:

meter:

stanza:

rhyming pattern:

couplet:

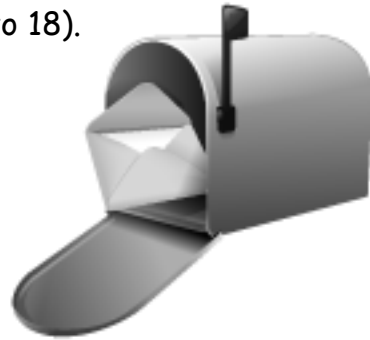
Check out page 10 of *Creative Wordworking* for more ideas.



May

Everyone loves to get letters in the mail from family and friends. Now-a-days, email often replaces pen and paper. Write a letter to a friend or relative this month. It doesn't have to be long at all. Send it out, and make sure to ask for a reply at the bottom of your letter. Hopefully, they'll write back.

Check out *Creative Wordworking* for more ideas and tips on writing letters and emails (pages 15 to 18).



June

Have you ever received a **card** for a birthday or a holiday that had something clever written on it? Write a card for a friend or family member. You can make a card by folding a piece of paper. Decorate it with whatever drawings or pictures, along with your greeting.

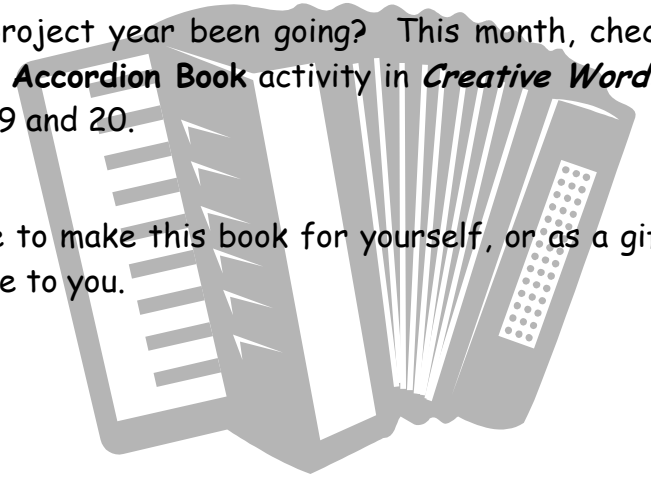
Wishing someone a good day can make their day!



July

How's your project year been going? This month, check out the awesome **Accordion Book** activity in *Creative Wordworking* on page 19 and 20.

You'll be able to make this book for yourself, or as a gift for someone close to you.



August

Creative writing doesn't have to be a solo project. You can work with a partner or a team to make something that one person might not think of on their own.

Get a few friends or family members (possibly your club) together for this activity. Sit around a table, and pass out a piece of paper and a pen or pencil to each person at the table. Each person then writes the first sentence of a story. Pass the papers to the person on your left. Everyone must now continue the story by writing the second sentence. At the end, take turns reading the stories out loud.

HINT: You can mix this activity up by using a timer. Each person writes as much as they want or can write in a one minute time limit. Pass the papers after each minute, even if you're in the middle of a sentence!

