

Instructor : Rusty Gorby

## Creative Writing

Paragraph structure and If. . . Writing

Journaling 5

Creative writing

Writing process and narrative/descriptive writing

"After 20 Years" by O. Henry

Preposition Poem

Pronoun Song

Nouns, Pronouns and Adjectives in Writing

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

An Interview with Your Grandparent

Informative Writing

Verb Facts and Verb Song

Persuasive writing, fact/opinion, and mini-lesson

Editing persuasive writing

What Is Writing Anyway?

Christmas Poetry

"Thank You M'am" by Langston Hughes

Letter Writing

Verb Tense and Parts of a Verb

Grammar Review--Application to Writing

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

WWII Discussion

Novel Discussion--Critical Analysis

A Family Tree and Journaling

Documented Report/Research paper  
Adverbs and Misplaced Modifiers  
Poetry Discussion and Analysis  
Clerihews and Limericks  
Writing poetry  
Poetry about the Lord and His creations  
Narrative/dramatic poetry  
Dramatic poetry assignment  
Writing techniques

**Mini-lessons include instructions on grammar, punctuation, and writing styles. These building blocks will improve the students' writing skills and should be incorporated into each paper thereafter.**

**The following supplies are needed:**

Computer with modem ([gorbywriting.com](http://gorbywriting.com))  
1 folders with pockets and brads (Portfolio)  
5 dividers (calendar, notes, handouts, drafts/assignments, journal)  
thesaurus  
index cards (3x5 for bibliography cards and larger size for note cards)  
red pen and highlighter

**Books to purchase:**

Where the Red Fern Grows (unabridged) by Wilson Rawls  
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

# Assignment Sheet

## Lesson 1—Trains and Paragraphs

- Have you read the “Getting Started” handout yet? See your Creative Writing home page so that you can print and read it right away.
- Print two copies of the Creative Writing Outline and Assignment Sheet—one for you and one for your parents.
- Organize your notebook with the 5 dividers: **calendar, notes, handouts, drafts/assignments, journal.**
- Write as many train/paragraph comparisons as you can.
- Do the two “If Writing” assignments. Try to write 5--8+ sentences for each one. You are only required to write a rough draft or first draft for each “If Writing.” Place these in the “Journal” section of your notebook.

## Lesson 2—Writing Process and Journal Days

- Choose your favorite “If Writing” journal, and **e-mail** it to me. Feel free to make some changes and adjustments to make your final copy great. Only e-mail one of the If Writings.
- Have you organized your dividers in your notebook?
- Study the Writing Process handout, and do the 5 Journal Days.

## Lesson 3—Transitions and Diction

- Examine your 5 journals from Lesson 2. Share your favorite one with someone in your family.
- Study your handouts from Lesson 3: Transitions, Writer’s Choice and MLA Format without a Title Page.
- Choose one of your journals from the “5 Journal” handout. Add transition words, and make sure you choose your words carefully.
- Make a final copy in MLA Format of your one favorite journal from 5 Journals.

## Lesson 4—“After 20 Years” and Prepositions

- **E-mail your final copy journal from Lesson 3.**
- Print your handouts for Lesson 4.
- Read “After Twenty Years” by O. Henry.
- Memorize the “Preposition Poem.” Be prepared to say the “Preposition Poem” to your parents.
- Find 50 prepositional phrases in “After Twenty Years.” Underline the prepositions, and circle the object.

## Lesson 5—Interview Time

- **Have your parents e-mail me when you have recited the preposition poem for memory.**

- **E-mail** your 50 prepositional phrases to me. If you found more than 50, I will be so proud of you. There are over 120 prepositional phrases in the story “After 20 Years.”
- Do the “Interview Your Grandparent” assignment. This will prepare us for reading Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls. You will begin reading the novel in Lesson 6, so make sure that you have purchased or borrowed it.

### **Lesson 6—Where the Red Fern Grows and Pronouns**

- You should have prepared your rough draft interview paragraph. Don't e-mail it yet.
- Print and study your handouts for lesson 6.
  - Edit your rough draft interview paragraph. Make sure that you haven't used too many pronouns. (You don't want to be vague.)
  - Edit your rough draft interview paragraph to see if you have placed your prepositional phrases in different parts of your sentences. (Remember that you don't want all of your prepositional phrases at the end of your sentences.)
  - Make a final copy of your interview paragraph in MLA Format. (See your handout on MLA Format from Lesson 3.)
  - Read Chapters 1-4 of Where the Red Fern Grows.

### **Lesson 7—Where the Red Fern Grows and Journal**

- List 10 main events that happened in Chapters 1-4.
- Read Chapters 5-10 of the novel.
- Do the Grammar Activity.
- Do Journal #1 on Love for Family: **In 5--8+ sentences, discuss how Wilson Rawls displays deep-felt love for family in his novel.**

### **Lesson 8—The Adjective Scoop and the Novel**

- Read Chapters 11-15.
- Print and study the handout, The Adjective Scoop.
- Do Journal #2 on Love for God: **In 5--8+ sentences, discuss how Wilson Rawls displays deep-felt love for God in his novel.** Try to incorporate some great adjectives into your journal paragraph.
- Read Journal #1 to someone in your family. Do not e-mail journal #1.

### **Lesson 9—The Pet Adventure**

- Read Chapters 16-end.
- Read Journal #2 to someone in your family.
- Print and study your handouts: Discussion on the Novel, The Pet Adventure, Begin with a Bang and Tips for Writing Your Pet Adventure.
- Begin your 2-3 page Pet Adventure story. See “Tips for Writing Your Pet Adventure.” Make your story “begin with a bang.”

### **Lesson 10—The Verb Facts**

- Print, do and study the handout “Verb Facts.”

- As you are writing your pet adventure, make sure that most of your verbs are action verbs so that your story will be exciting.
- Finish your rough draft pet adventure.

### **Lesson 11—Expressive Verbs**

- Edit your rough draft pet adventure. **Check** your work from Lesson 10, “Verbs in Action,” with the handout “Discussion on Verbs in Action.”
- Study and use the Expressive Verbs handout.
- Underline all of the verbs in your story. Are the majority of your verbs, action verbs?
- Make a final copy of your Pet Adventure paper. Put the final copy in MLA Format. Be prepared to e-mail your story in Lesson 12.

**As I finish this course online, this handout will be completed.**

### **Lesson 12—Persuasive Writing**

- **E-mail** your final copy of the Pet Adventure. Make sure that it is in MLA Format.