

Write-for-a-Month

What Are Write-for-a-Month (WFAM) Writing Books?

The *Write-for-a-Month* (WFAM) series of books is from LAL's line of digital publications. WFAM is a digital arm of the small- press homeschool publisher, Character Ink Press/Language Arts Lady Blog, and houses a variety of month-long writing books, grammar downloads, readers, and more for teachers, parents, tutors, co-op leaders, and homeschoolers.

The WFAM books are writing/composition books of two to four lengthy lessons each, between 50 and 120 pages per book (depending on the level). These books contain writing projects that last one month (four weeks) and are based on old books/current movies/characters that children and adults love **or** historical characters/animals/nature topics (indicated by titles/covers). The books contain all types of writing, especially focusing on research reports, essays, and stories.

The projects in the WFAM books all use the author's signature "Directed Writing Approach," which takes students by the hand every step of the way from prewriting (brainstorming, character and plot development, research, etc.) to skill building (for projects requiring certain skills, such as quotes or imagery or persuasion, etc.) to outlining (based on the type of writing) to writing rough drafts to editing (via the Checklist Challenge) to final copy. Each project has detailed samples for students to see how the project was written by another student (a rarity in writing programs) and in-depth lessons of all of the skills needed in order to complete that project.

Each series contains five books*

Level I = Grade 2nd & 3rd – Purple

Level II = Grade 4th & 5th – Red

Level III = Grade 6th, 7th, & 8th – Blue

Level IV = Grade 9th & 10th – Green

Level V = Grade 11th & 12th – Yellow



Projects:

- Twice Told Tale– Dumbo
- Three Reasons–More Laws Should Be Passed/Current Laws Are Too Extreme Concerning Animal Treatment in Zoos, Circuses, and Aquariums

Skills:

- Character Development
- Hindrance Development
- Time Period Study
- Scene Development
- Dialogue Inclusion
- Quotations, Punctuation, and Capitalization
- Transitions
- Thesis & Thesis Reloaded
- Opening and Closing Paragraph Types

About the “Write-for-a-Month” Book Series

The Write-for-a-Month (WFAM) composition series is a non-religious, yet meaningful, writing program for use in homes, schools, co-ops, and tutoring situations. The books are writing/composition books of two to four lengthy lessons each, between 50 and 120 pages per book (depending on the level). These books contain writing projects of all types at grades two through twelve. Each WFAM book is either **topic-specific** (Mowgli, Peter Pan, Beauty and Beast, Christmas Friends, Dumbo, Slinky Dog, Fairy Tales, Nature, Animals, Famous People, etc.) or **writing-type-specific** (i.e. story writing, reports, essays, dialogue, Twice-Told Tales, Tools and Tricks, poetry, and much more). All of the books are grade-level specific (five levels from 2nd through 12th grades--see note below).

The projects in both series use the author’s signature “Directed Writing Approach,” which takes students by the hand every step of the way from prewriting (brainstorming, character and plot development, research, etc.) to skill building (for projects requiring certain skills, such as quotes or imagery or persuasion, etc.) to outlining (based on the type of writing) to writing rough drafts to editing (via the *Checklist Challenge*) to final copy. No vagueness. No questions as to what to write or how to write.

All of the book types that will be released are listed on the WFAM Series Titles back matter. I recommend that you start out with a *Tools and Tricks* or *Writing Boxes* book if you and your students are unfamiliar with Language Arts Lady’s writing programs. (After that, your student will love any of the books!)

By utilizing our **writing-type-specific** books, you will be able to work on learning the LAL’s ways! These writing type books include **Tools and Tricks** (introducing my methods to prepare for any future books) and **Twice-Told Tales** (story writing spin off projects).

By using our **topic-specific** book, your student can choose the characters, books/movie, science, or history themes he would like to write about. Again, both sets are month-long downloads with incremental and extremely-detailed instructions.

Partial sample lessons are available at the Language Arts Lady store (though the best way to try a WFAM book for your home or classroom is to purchase an early to mid-level book and try it out with your students). I recommend that younger students do a WFAM “Writing Boxes” book and middle and upper level students do a “Tools and Tricks” book first.

There are price differences for home/individual use vs. classroom/co-op use, and we ask that you follow our copyright guidelines of use by the purchaser only for whichever setting it was purchased.

Project Labels/Levels and Printing/Use

The projects within each book are labeled with numbers. A larger project is labeled as Projects 1 and 2, indicating that, that project is lengthy and will likely take two weeks to complete if writing is a daily

subject for your students (longer than that if writing is a twice weekly or non-daily activity). The number of projects in each book roughly coincides with the length of the project in a one-month situation. (Most books will take about one month with daily writing.) The books can be stretched out over two months with less frequent writing or condensed to a two-week time period in remediation or workshop situations.

The author is creating videos about how to teach the projects, so check out the **How I Teach videos** at **Language Arts Lady Blog** or **YouTube** to see if the book you are interested in has a video yet. (There are over fifty there at this time.)

The author has tested each project in each book between three and six times live with fifty to sixty students every year and has made changes according to their responses. We recommend that you print out the books two-sided and three hole-punch them and put them in half or one-inch binders for ease of use. It is especially nice to print the cover in color and slide it into the front of the student binder.

Time Spent in Write-for-a-Month

The method of instruction in most of the books will require one or two 30-60 minute meetings each week with the teacher to discuss the assignments, introduce the outlining technique, check the student's rough draft, review his Checklist Challenge (CC), and grade his final composition.

In addition, the student will need to work approximately 20-50 minutes (depending on level of book) per day four days a week by himself in order to complete all the assignments contained herein during a one-month period of time. (High school students will be on the upper end of that.)

Again, the time and teacher assistance needed in each book will vary according to whether the student is learning to write sentences or multiple paragraph compositions (as well as whether he is doing a *Tools and Tricks* book vs a story vs a report—and his interest level in all of those). It is recommended that you start out working together and see which areas your student is able to work alone and which areas he needs your assistance. The time needed will also be different if a book is spread out over two months.

Two Skill Levels in Each Book

All books have two skill levels within each level: Basic and Extension. These two levels provide two different skill levels of writing and revising for students in each book. Thus, a younger student using a certain book would not do as many paragraphs and revisions as an older (or more advanced) student using the same book. The composition is dependent upon a student at least understanding the fundamentals of sentence structure (and these are introduced and built upon in the *Tools and Tricks* books).

Students will be able to complete the projects much more effectively if they understand the functions of subjects and verbs. Students will be able to insert the Checklist Challenge revisions into their writings much more easily if they understand how to do the revisions (how to combine sentences, how to add sentence openers, how to write SSS5's, etc.). The groundwork for many of those skills is laid out in *Tools and Tricks* and *Writing Boxes*—for beginning students as well as older students who need instruction in those fundamentals.

(Also, the *Tools and Tricks* books, in addition to being grade-level appropriate, are strong remediation books with specific instruction in “How to Create and Write From a Sentence-by-Sentence Outline Over Given Material” and “How to Complete the Checklist Challenge,” etc. These are good starter books and are available at all five levels.)

Grade Levels

Note that WFAM books are not *exactly* grade level specific. The books are labeled with numbers that approximate the grade level of the projects. However, writing is extremely subjective. An advanced seventh grader (with years of writing experience) may do great in one of the Level V books whereas a seventh grader without much writing experience may be more comfortable going in the II or III *Tools and Tricks* books for what a sentence or paragraph contains and how to put paragraphs together for essays and reports. Check out the samples at our store to find the right fit for your student(s).

Semester-Long Character Quality Writing Books

Note that homeschoolers or Christian schools who desire the types of projects in WFAM but want a complete writing program with Christian/character emphases (as well as many of the WFAM projects) should check out my semester-long books, *Meaningful Composition* (MC). Two-week samples of each MC book are available at our [Language Arts Lady Store](#).

