



Local Writing Group Exercises

Visual Prompts: Find an object or photo for inspiration. It could be something ordinary or something unique or odd. Set a time limit. Fifteen minutes is a good place to start. Keep in mind your group's time limitations and size. Read stories after the timer goes off. You can add elements to this exercise by limiting any story element (character, setting, genre, etc.) or focusing on a particular writing technique (showing vs telling, using all senses, alliteration, etc.)

Surprise Genres and Themes: Ahead of the meeting, write out various genres on slips of paper and place them in a bag or bowl. In another bag place slips of paper with themes, settings, characters, or items on them. Everyone draws one slip of paper from each bag. Participants must write using those two elements. Put fifteen minutes on the timer, and read the stories when time is up.

Story Cubes: Roll the cube. Participants must use all three elements to create a story. Set a timer for fifteen minutes. Then, read your stories aloud. Story cubes can be purchased or created. The story cube template below uses a person, place, and thing. Plus, there is a blank one to make your own, if you don't like the options I included.

First Line: Give each participant a different book. Choose a page number. Everyone must write using the first full line on that page. Set the timer for fifteen minutes. Read the stories when time is up.

First Line the Sequel: Use the sentence method listed in "First Line". Have each person draw a genre they must write in. Set the timer for fifteen minutes. Read everyone's story when time is up.

First Line Part Three: Participants write a first line then pass it to the person on their left. Everyone must write using the first line given to them. Set the timer for fifteen minutes, and read the stories when finished.

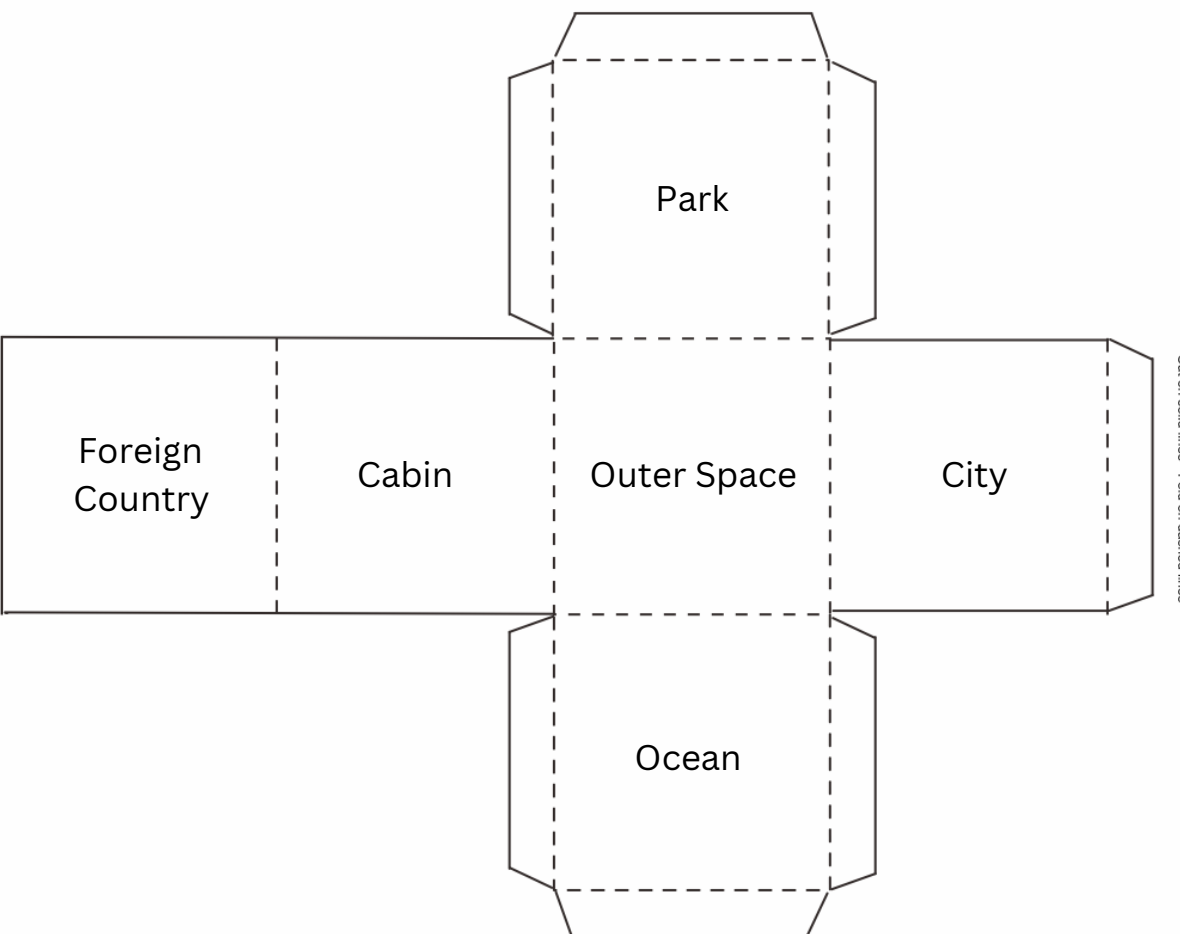
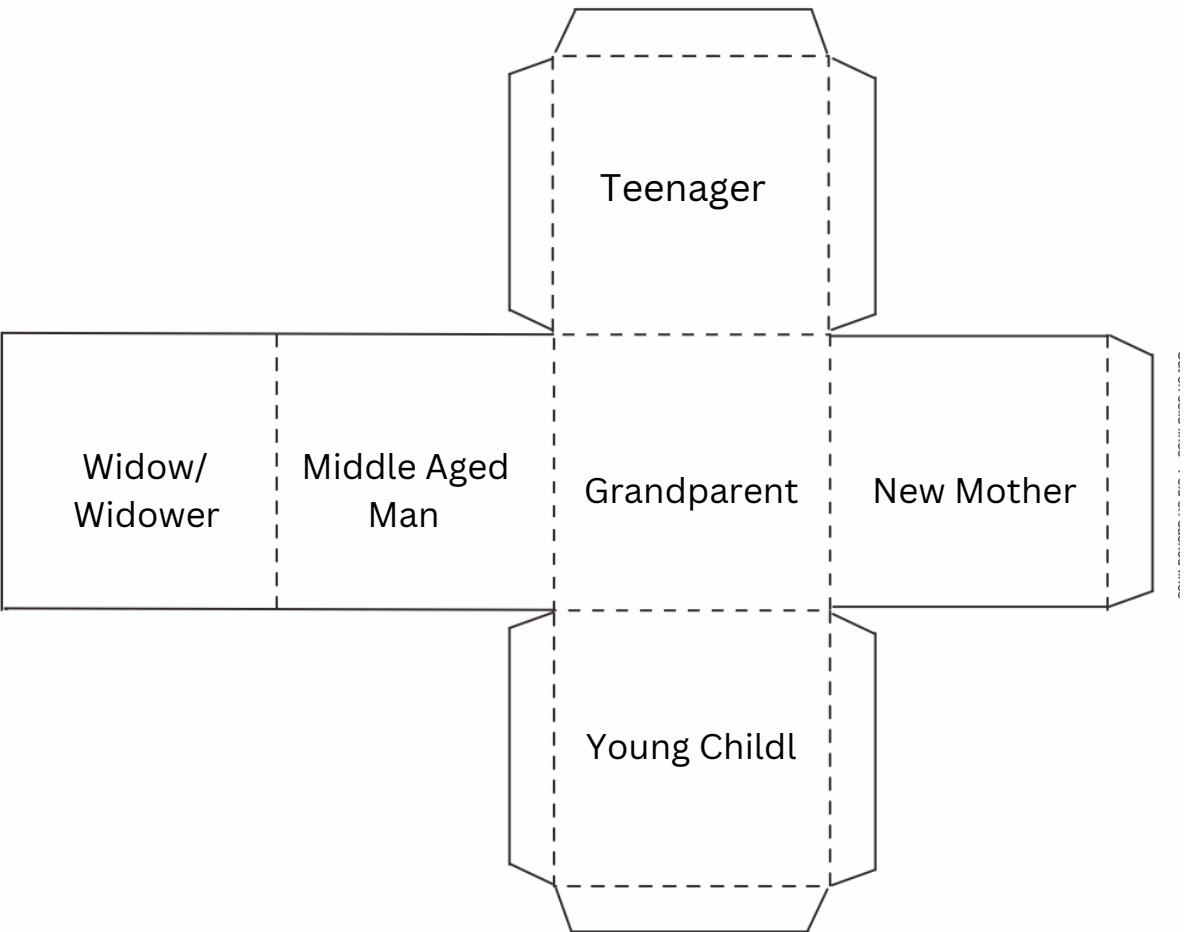
Lesson Activities: If your group uses a video lesson or someone presents a lesson on writing technique, plan your writing activity around that lesson. The options above can be adapted to fit many different needs. Or get creative. If the ideas above don't work, create your own activity. Just remember to set a time limit and let everyone read their work when time is up.

*This list is in no way comprehensive. It is meant to provide a starting point for your writing group. Many of the activities can be combined and tweaked to fit the specific needs of your group. See "First Line" above for examples on how to modify the activities. Have fun with it! This is a great way to stretch your creativity and get to know the writers in your group.

Story Cubes

blank template from

http://printables.atozteacherstuff.com/download/cube_outline.pdf



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