

Reading Magic

with Jeff Evans

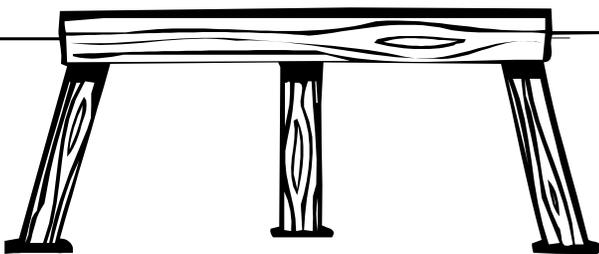


Picture Perfect Writing

Do you get “writer’s block” when you need to write? Here’s a tip to unlock your creativity: find an interesting, funny or unusual photo from a newspaper or magazine. Don’t read the article, just imagine what happened before, during and after the photo was taken. Who is the person? Where are they? Are they happy, sad, mad, proud, and why?

Here’s the best part; once you are done with your writing, cut out the photo that ignited your story and attach it to your writing. Presto - your own feature story with professional photograph! Photos help draw attention, so you can be sure others will want to see what you have produced and what the picture means.

Others starter ideas for stories include advertisements, headlines, and even covers of books.



Tricky, Tricky



Tell your friend, “I’ve hidden a \$100 bill in between pages 99 and 100 of this book.”

What’s the catch? Page 100 is always printed on the **BACK** of page 99, so it would be impossible to hide anything between them! But, let your friend take a look.

Did your friend look? If they did, you could call them gullible. A gullible person is one who is easily deceived or fooled into believing things other people say.

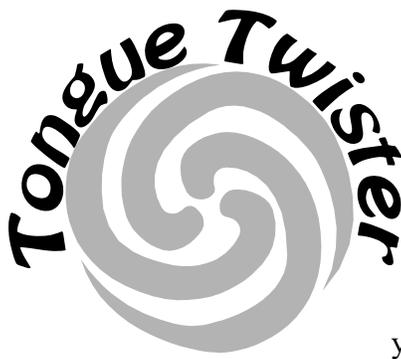
But, amazingly, the word “gullible” isn’t even a word. It has *never* been printed in any dictionary. Check for yourself... then, tell your friend!

Homonym, n. 1. A word having the same pronunciation as another, but differing from it in meaning; a homophone. Example: see below!

The Problem with Spell Checkers

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Send e-mail to jeff@edumazement.com or call (877) 412-5064 to learn about Jeff Evans’ *Reading Magic, Science Magic, Mission: Possible* and *Family Night Magic Show* assemblies.



Tongue twisters get their name because they are hard to pronounce. The most difficult ones not only make your mouth move in different positions for each

word, but also look similar on paper.

Check out these, and time a friend to see who can repeat each line five times the fastest... without goofing up!

Try Ten Titanically Treacherous Tongue Twisters Today

1. Six slumbering sharks sharply striking shins.
2. Preshrunk silk shirts.
3. Quick throats, thick quotes
4. Where's squire's spare wire?
5. Bill's feet feel beat.
6. Crisp crusts crackle crunchily.
7. Are our oars oak?
8. Listen to the local yokel yodel.
9. Silly Sally swiftly shooed seven silly sheep.
10. Willie's really weary.



This is a fun thing to do with friends or classmates. It's a story co-authored by as many people as you like! Although you may start it, how it ends is out of your control.

Here's what you do: begin a story by writing only one complete sentence. (For instance: Once upon a time I was walking through the woods and found a magic genie lamp lying in the bushes.) Pass this paper to a friend. They will read the sentence you just wrote, then write the next sentence. Continue this process until you feel a good conclusion has been reached. The end result will be very unexpected, and probably hilarious.

Dear Journal...

Get a spiral bound notebook and start a journal or diary of what's important in your life. Journals are a great way to organize your feelings, make plans for the future, and record your own history. Not only that, but they're a hoot to look back on and read as you get older!

It's easy to start: get a pen or pencil and the notebook. Date your entry and then write down your thoughts as though writing to your best friend. Don't spend a lot of time worrying about punctuation and grammar. That will improve in time. And, don't worry about editing, just let your thoughts and creative ideas flow onto the paper.

Tips for Better Writing

"The most important thing is to read as much as you can, like I did. It will give you an understanding of what makes good writing and it will enlarge your vocabulary... start by writing about things you know -- your own experiences, your own feelings. That's what I do."

-J. K. Rowling

author of the *Harry Potter series*

Appeal to the Senses

The best, most memorable stories are the ones that appeal to the senses. How can you make a person see, hear, feel, touch, and smell what you want? Use *adjectives*. Adjectives are descriptive words like fast, scrumptious, rough, and squeaky.

Get Emotional

If you can make your reader laugh out loud or bawl with tears, you have truly created a memorable experience.

What are some of the books you remember most? Did they make you very happy, very sad, or very scared? What are some experiences from your life that you remember the most? Try to involve your reader's emotions when you write.