How to Use This Book with Children

1. Read about journals (pages 2-3).

2. Read about what you can include in a journal (pages 4-5). Talk about the pictures. Make connections to children’s experiences.

3. Read and talk about the sample journal entries (pages 6-15).

4. Review the steps for writing a journal and the writer’s checklist (page 16).

5. Support students as they begin to write their own journal entries.

Discover Journals
by Steve W. Dunn and Carrie Smith
What Is a Journal?
A journal is something you write about yourself.

Why Do People Write Journals?
People want to remember things that happened. They want to remember what they thought or felt.

Journal
Saturday
I had a great birthday party!
All my friends were there!

Sunday
I got a new red bicycle for my birthday!
I went to the park to ride it.
What Can You Include in a Journal?

You can tell what you did.
You can tell what you saw.

You can tell what you think or feel.
You can draw pictures, too.
Some writers write with pictures.
Some writers write with pictures and letters.

I played on the monkey bars.

I had a big cake!
Some writers write one sentence.

I kicked the soccer ball!

I dove in the cold water!
Some writers write more than one sentence.

My mom and I went to the playground. My mom is the best!

We went to see my grandma. I was so excited!
I went to the museum.
It was amazing.
I didn’t want to leave!

Today I fell off my bike. I felt really upset. My knee hurt for a long time.
First, Write Your Own Journal

1. Draw pictures about your ideas.
2. Tell what you did or saw.
3. Tell what you think or feel.

Next, Review Your Checklist

I remembered to . . .

☐ Draw pictures.
☐ Tell what I did or saw.
☐ Tell what I think or feel.
Discover Journals

What is a journal, and why do people write them? In this book, you'll discover the features of journals and read sample journal entries. You'll find out how to write your own journal, too!

Steve W. Dunn
is a former teacher and principal. He now works with teachers and principals across the country on how to help their students become better readers and writers.

Carrie Smith
is an award-winning novelist and author of short stories who has also written and edited hundreds of books for children. She lives in New York City.

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