Choose a Level | WriteShop Junior

**WriteShop Junior** is a parent-directed writing curriculum for children in grades 3-6. This placement guide will help you choose the best starting level for your child.

Caution: Don’t Choose a Level That’s Too Young

Each WriteShop Junior level teaches specific skills within a range of ages, making it easier to choose the very best place to begin the program. However, **age and skill are not the only factors**. Your child’s *reasoning skills, emotional maturity,*and *ability to express ideas orally* are also important considerations. So before you decide on a level, make sure to look at the big picture!

Start at the level that best fits your student’s **thinking skills**, not his writing skills. A child’s ability to physically write things down often lags behind his intellect and vocabulary. Some 4th and 5th graders still have a hard time putting pencil to paper. If you have a child like this, resist the temptation to start him in WriteShop Primary. Placing him in a level that feels “beneath him” socially and emotionally can jeopardize his willingness to write.

WriteShop Junior is a better fit for most upper-elementary students—*even if they haven’t had much writing experience.*Here’s why:

* **Key concepts carry over** into future books, so don’t worry about having “missed” something. All important concepts are carried over to future books, where they will be reintroduced and practiced.
* **Smaller Steps and Flying Higher** activities appear in all Primary and Junior books, allowing you to adjust assignments to the child’s level of ability.

**WriteShop Junior Book D**

**Target: 3rd & 4th grade (or reluctant 5th)**

* *Most children who have completed WriteShop Primary* [*Book B*](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-primary-teachers-guide-book-b/) *or* [*Book C*](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-primary-teachers-guide-book-c/) *can move right into Book D.*
* *Book D makes a good choice for first-time WriteShop students who have****weak sentence or paragraph skills****. (Reluctant writers are encouraged to do some or all of the work orally; however, extremely reluctant 3rd graders may gain more confidence starting with* [*WriteShop Primary Book C*](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-primary-teachers-guide-book-c/)*.)*
* *6th and 7th graders with* ***special needs*** *may also find success with Book D—as long as they are not put off by the more juvenile* [*worksheet illustrations*](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-junior-activity-pack-d/)*.*

**Start with Book D if your 8- to 11-year-old needs to learn how to:**

* Identify and use proper grammar and punctuation
* Identify and correctly use parts of speech
* Narrow a broad topic to a specific topic
* Brainstorm before writing
* Write an adequate sentence
* Write a basic paragraph
* Choose strong words instead of weak ones
* Use editing tools to correct and revise compositions

If your child is already somewhat confident in most of these areas, consider choosing [Book E](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-junior-teachers-guide-book-e/) instead.

**WriteShop Junior Book E**

**Target: 4th & 5th grade (or reluctant 6th)**

* *Use Book E with upper-elementary children who have already learned basic sentence and paragraph skills.*
* ***5-paragraph writing****is introduced about 2/3 of the way through the book. If you anticipate your child’s readiness to learn this skill by then, Book E should be a good fit. However, even when a child is not quite ready to write five paragraphs, “Smaller Steps” activities will always give simpler options.*
* *7th and 8th graders with* ***special needs****(or who haven’t had much formal writing instruction) may also find success with Book E—as long as they are not put off by the* [*simplicity of the Activity Pack artwork*](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-junior-activity-pack-e/)*.*

**Start with Book E if your 9- to 12-year-old needs to learn how to:**

* Choose a point of view
* Develop the middle of the story to make it interesting
* Develop voice and show emotion in his writing
* Vary sentence length
* Write a book summary
* Write an expository nonfiction report
* Write a 5-paragraph composition

If the [younger artwork](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-junior-activity-pack-e/) will bother a more mature 11- or 12-year-old, consider choosing [WriteShop I](http://writeshop.com/product/writeshop-i-student-workbook/) instead.