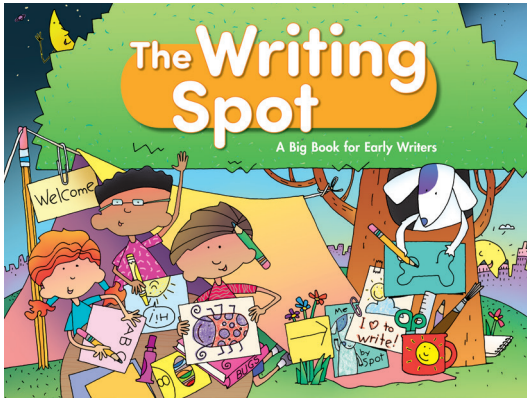


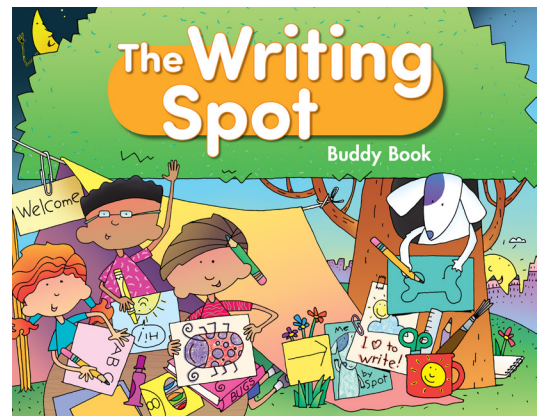
Welcome to the *Writing Spot* Program!



The Writing Spot free online **Big Book** gives you dozens of beautiful, full-color illustrations to capture young writers' attention and teach writing skills.

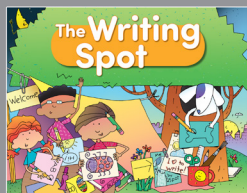
The **Writing Spot Buddy Book** overflows with fun activities that help students move toward conventional writing.

- The **Process of Writing** teaches prewriting, writing, revising, and editing.
- The **Forms of Writing** teach notes, lists, stories, and more.
- The **Tools of Learning** help students learn with others and use computers.
- **Word Study/Phonics** help your students explore letters, sounds, words, and sentences.
- **Almanac/Theme Pages** teach important high-frequency words at work and play.
- **Alphabet Pages** provide a personal ABC word dictionary.



The free, online **Writing Spot Teacher's Guide** leads you page by page through the **Big Book** and **Buddy Book**. Check out k12.thoughtfullearning.com/WSTG:

- Sequencing Assignments
- Yearlong Timetable
- Getting-Started Activities
- Chapter-by-Chapter Guide to the Student Handbook
- Assessing Writing
- Activities and Handouts



Teacher's Guide
to the Student Handbook

Getting Started with *Writing Spot*

Week	<i>The Writing Spot Big Book</i> and <i>Buddy Book</i>
1-2	Getting-Started Activities <i>Spot writes.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Skills: Steps in the Process BB 2-3
3-4	Writers look and think to find ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Skills: Letters and Words BB 4-5 We make signs and labels. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Skills: Direction-Word Labels BB 24-26

Step 1 Go to the free *Teacher's Guide* k12.thoughtfullearning.com/WSTG.

- Select the suggested **Yearlong Timetable** to see what you'll be teaching.
- Select **Getting-Started Activities** to introduce the program.

Step 2 Select the material you want to teach, such as "Spot Writes."

- Read the **Start-Up Activity** and **Think About It** quotation.
- Note the **Common Core State Standards** you are teaching.
- Lead students through **numerous activities** for writing and learning, progressing from scribbles to conventional work.

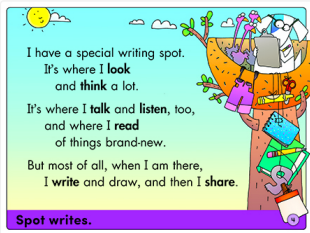
[View Big Book.](#)

Young children are eager to share their ideas and stories. It's important that they find a receptive audience for their communicating—talking, drawing, and especially their earliest writing efforts. Because children come to the classroom with a diversity of experience and skills, it's helpful to introduce the learning process with a likable, neutral character they can all identify with—Spot. Children may memorize and sing this rhyme. It reinforces the steps in the process—not just the process of learning to write, but that of learning to do most anything.

About the Picture Spot demonstrates the fun of having a special place to gather writing supplies. He also has a great command post for looking around and thinking as he writes.

Major Concepts

- Writers need to think about what they want to share.
- Writers need to talk and listen as they prepare to share.
- Writers need tools to communicate.
- Early writers communicate with pictures and words.
- The heart of the writing process is a meaningful message.
- All writing needs an audience.



Writer's Response: Draw your writing spot. Add words or pictures for things you like to write about.



Spot writes.

2 The Process of Writing

Step 3 Lead students through the activities in their *Buddy Books* and other **free extension activities**.

- Help students see themselves as writers, eagerly progressing from scribble writing, through imitative and phonetic forms, to conventional writing.

Step 4 Assess writing using **observational checklists, rubrics, examples, conferences, and portfolios**.