

Writing in the Garden

Use your garden, or just the great outdoors as an inspiration for writing. Students can bring their writing journals or garden journals outside to capture the beauty of the season in words. Here are some ideas to incorporate your garden into writing activities:

- Do leaf or bark rubbings in the journal and trade journals with a friend to match the bark to the correct tree. Record the type of tree that matches each leaf or bark rubbing when you return to the classroom.
- Bend a wire coat hanger (one for each student) into a diamond shape by holding the center of the bottom, and the hook in both hands and pulling in opposite directions. Hold your "looking glass" by the hook and focus on an area of the garden. Sketch a picture of *only* what you see through your looking glass. Then write a descriptive paragraph about what you saw.
- Choose something that was grown in your garden, and write a persuasive paragraph about why it is a great vegetable, herb, flower, etc. to plant in your garden space.
- Look up at the leaves changing colors around your garden space and write similes and metaphors comparing the colors to other objects. This could later be used to write a poem.

A great Just For Fun! activity is to make Leaf Glitter. Collect leaves and separate by color into bags. Have students crumple, or tear the leaves into very tiny pieces and return to the correct bag. You can then use your leaf glitter to create a mosaic by "drawing" with glue on a sheet of paper, and sprinkling your leaf glitter onto the picture. This works best if you do one color at a time. For example, you could "draw" a house with glue, and sprinkle brown leaves on it, then "draw" orange pumpkins sitting by the house and sprinkle orange leaves on those. Continue "drawing" with the glue and adding one color at a time.