

The Pen and Paper



Developed by:

Indiana WRITING PROJECT

A local site of the National Writing Project

Hello all,

The end of the year has come! We can't help but notice exhaustion, frustration, and reflection is upon us. We must celebrate the successes, no matter how small; we teachers are always looking to make the best better. To do this, [Reggie Routman in Reading Essentials: The Specifics You Need in Teaching Well](#), tells us focus on what matters most:

- Inspiring ongoing curiosity and a love of learning
- Acquiring the skills and tools to learn and go on learning
- Ensuring that learners become thinking, probing users of language
- Implementing challenging and relevant curriculum

That being said, we always found at this time of year, we were too hard on ourselves: I have so much to teach. I have 4-weeks, how can I get everything done? How can I help Johnny overcome his writer's block? Cindy is almost breaking through to be a poet...How can I tip her into the poetry pool? Tommy still can't write a complete sentence...I've done all I can do...What can I try next? We thought these things and hundreds of other thoughts, questioning our competency as teachers. Beating ourselves up because we wanted more for our students. We knew that keeping the work meaningful, providing opportunities to expanding student skills, knowledge, and thinking are critical all year, but especially in May, with summer break approaching. We found it is important to remember that with the school year winding down, not only do we need to inspire our students, but we must rejuvenate our students and rejuvenate ourselves, too.

We also found that discovering activities for which we feel passion can be rejuvenating. If we are passionate about a subject or activity, the passion spilled over to our students. So how can we express our passions through writing? Ask the students! What do you want to learn about? How can you share your passion through the written word? The students will generate more ideas than you will have time to do and the students will display their passions through poetry, essays, presentations, and demonstrations. Students will be engaged, passionate, and thorough in their work. Rejuvenation for us teachers comes when we see our students actively engaged and learning.

Don't forget, when the school year ends, you have many successes to celebrate. You have made a difference in the lives of your students--it sounds so cliché, but it is true. It is not the lessons the students will remember, but how you made the students feel about themselves they will remember. Love yourself and take time to appreciate the wonder of teaching. You deserve it.

This is our last edition for the school year. Rejuvenate yourself and don't forget us. Write on!

Shirley and Susan

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9th Edition

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*Our goal is to promote
teachers helping
teachers.*



Can Teachers REALLY
Have Hobbies?

Words of Wisdom
from Reggie
Routman



Want to Feel Good?



**Here are some mentor
texts that feed your
heart and touch your
soul: [All the Places to
Love by Patricia
McLachlan](#)
and [A Quiet Places by
Douglas Wood](#).**

**What is happening this
summer with IWP? Want to
know more about National
Writing Project? Check out
the links below!**



- ❖ [Attend the week long Open Institute to BEGIN or rejuvenate an educational writing journey!](#)
- ❖ [What is the National Writing Project? See what inspires IWP!](#)