**August’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

**Instructions**: After responding to any of the ideas on this page with a decorated ½-page or full-page addition to your writer’s notebook, color in the completed box with a yellow highlighter. When you create any “five-in-a-row” Bingos, a “Four Corners,” or a complete “Blackout” of the whole card, come and show your teacher to receive a special sticker for your work!

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| Create a 3-panel comic strip showing a student who wanted summer break to never end. | Make a list of seven flavors of ice cream you’d like to see invented this year. | Explain it well! A pet with the suddenly-new ability to speak wants to understand poetry. | Describe a bad piece of poetry from Yoda or Shakespeare’s point-of-view. Use voice. | In an interesting way, share the story of how someone obtained an interesting nickname. |
| Attach a picture taken this past summer to a notebook page. Write about it with details! | Launch a list or a creative description that captures your idea of a “perfect picnic.” | *Justify it!* Cite detailed reasons why summer vacation should be increased by one week. | *Personify a Concrete Noun!* Choose a breakfast cereal and turn it into a “person.” | *What do wind chimes think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. |
| Fake apology! Think of something bad you’ve done in the last week, and write an apology that sounds convincing. | Illustrate and label the parts of a machine you’d invent to prevent your parents from waking you up early. | **August’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Presenting Me (using Great Vocabulary)**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/Presenting-Me.htm) | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these adjectives in front of the word *driver* and write about what comes to mind. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a soda pop could e-mail its rival flavor/ biggest competition, what would it say? |
| *“I was not surprised!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it! | List 5-10 interesting things you could do today with a year’s supply of jelly beans. | *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream a *overly*-*popular student* has. | Describe the underside of your new desk from a unique point of view—like your shoes. | Write 3 unusual, true facts you know about a topic. Write them as a riddle and share them. |
| Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Writer’s Words* | Start a page where you can record favorite puns. Write 2 or 3 down. Record more on this page as the year progresses. | Make a list of advice for someone who is entering your last year’s teacher’s class. | Create a half- or full-page tribute to a pet—past or present. Use words and pictures! | *Living the Dream!*  If money were not an issue, what would the *dream binder look like?* |

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**September’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite food. Use words and pictures! | *“Convince Me!” Prompt* Think of a school rule you don’t like. Write a persuasive argument. | *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream that any *invertebrate* may have. | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | *What two numbers feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. |
| Create a three-panel comic strip that shows a student who doesn’t know how to study. | *What does a cloud think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Make a list of good advice for a (real or imaginary) younger brother or sister. | Launch a list or a creative description that captures your idea of a “perfect day.” | You’re on a deserted island. You’re allowed three books and three songs. Which ones? |
| *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a day of the week and turn it into a “person.” | Celebrate one of your favorite words by turning it into an acrostic poem. | **September’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/alpha-genres.htm) | Describe a room in your home from a unique point of view—like an insect’s. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one in your notebook! |
| Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *School Words* | Turn a current event into a “recipe” by listing “ingredients” and explaining how to “mix” those ingredients. | Create an advertisement to sell one of your favorite articles of clothing. | *“I was totally terrified!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it! | Think of a family expression or inside joke and explain it using details and illustrations. |
| Make a list of six writing topics you think your fellow classmates would like to write to. | Write about a true or fictional embarrassing moment. Provide an illustration! | Start a page where you can record your favorite clean jokes. Write 2 or 3 down. Record more on this page as the year progresses. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a pet could e-mail its owner, what would the e-mail say? Write it! | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these two adjectives in front of the word *friend* and write about what comes to mind. |

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**October’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Describe the full moon or the rising sun from a werewolf or vampire’s point of view. | Explain/illustrate with detailed steps how you do something you’re pretty good at doing. | Start a page where you can record onomatopoetic words. Write 10 or 15 down. Record more on this page throughout the year. | Quote a song, book, or a movie that offered good advice. Justify why the advice is good. | Recording Science Rhymes!  List 3 science vocab words that you can make 5-10 rhymes for. |
| *What does a heart think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | *Make a “Top 5” List!* Cite 5 detailed reasons why a classmate should read a book you liked. | *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a school subject and turn it into a “person.” | 3-minutes of dialogue!  Create a short script where two characters discuss or complain about how their book or novel ended. | Give *voice* to a pristine place and have the place explain how it feels about humans. |
| Justify with multiple reasons why a kid your age should or shouldn’t be allowed to vote. | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite character from a book you liked. | **October’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**“Life is a Cookbook:” Recipe Writes**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/recipe-writes.htm) | *What breakfast cereals feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Halloween* |
| *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *week-end* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. | Make a list of advice for others who may be assigned to work with you in a small group. | Create an advertisement to sell one of your sibling’s (or parents’) possessions. | *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream car* do/look like? | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! |
| *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  What e-mail might a historical figure send to your history teacher? | “Why did you blush?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | Create a comic that shows a student having the worst school picture day ever! | List 5-10 things you can do inside during a rainy recess instead of going outside to catch cold. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! |

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**November’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| *Unusual Science Cookbook!* Write new “recipe” for a scientific concept, like a *volcano* or *black hole*. | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | Create an advertisement to rent one of your favorite memories to others. | “What did you lose?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a lost toy could e-mail its owner, what would it say? Write it! |
| *“I was completely calm!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it! | Create a comic strip that shows a student having the worst luck in the lunchroom! | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Family* | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite month/season in your notebook. | Justify it! Explain why magic needs to exist to someone who has a very scientific mind. |
| *What two holidays feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *mentor* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. | **November’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**16-Word Poems: *So Much Depends Upon…***](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/so-much-depends-upon.htm) | Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent for doing your homework. | Start a page where you can record oxymorons or palindromes. Write 2 or 3 down. Record more on this page throughout the year. |
| *What does a turkey think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Invent a new library that allows you to check out more unique things than books. | In an interesting way, share the story of how you obtained your first or your middle name. | Explain it! An outer space alien wants to know how/why you do something routine. | In one paragraph, take something boring (like mashed potatoes) and make it exciting! |
| List 5-10 things that took place this last year that won’t make it into the holiday newsletter. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! | *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream a *carnival ride* might have. | *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream bedroom* be? | Describe a historical ship or vessel from a ship rat’s point of view. Be historically accurate. |

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**December’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a predator could e-mail its prey, what would the e-mail say? | List 5-10 things you could do with a Tupperware container of saved freezer snow. | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite place/location in your notebook. | “When did it click?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | Describe an interesting historical location from an intelligent ghost’s point of view. |
| Justify it! Think of 2-3 things the world would be better without. Argue for elimination. | *“Convince Me!” Prompt* Think of food that’s *not* nutritious. Write an argument for eating it. | *What does a cell think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Make a list of advice for someone who may be doing some gift shopping for you soon. | Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent for doing a least favorite chore. |
| *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a powerful emotion and turn it into a “person.” | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | **December’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Personifying Your Vocabulary Words**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/personified-vocabulary.htm) | *Unusual Math Cookbook!* Write “recipe” for a solving a certain type of math problem. | What might different colors smell or taste like? Answer this for eight different colors. |
| *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream backyard* be? | Create an ad to sell your favorite color to someone who doesn’t appreciate that color. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! | List/detail the perfect “five-stop vacation” you’d take next summer, if possible. | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Winter* |
| *What two veggies feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Recording History Rhymes!  List 3 history vocab words that you can make 5-10 rhymes for. | Start a page where you can record favorite quotes said by book characters. Write 2-3 down now. Record more throughout the year. | Write a new *So Much Depends Upon… poem* that is about a topic you studied in history. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *sleep-over* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. |

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**January’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | *What does water think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Find a published poem that you like, and write an original, short poem that has the same title. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite school subject in your notebook. |
| *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream any *reptile* might have. | List 3 or more detailed reasons why kids your age should/should not be allowed to drive. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *advice* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. | List 5-10 things you can’t do but your parents can. Use tone to convey feelings. | *What two planets feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. |
| Start a page where you can record alliterative phrases you find in readings. Write 2 - 3 down now. Record more throughout the year. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If an angry fraction could e-mail a decimal, what would it write? | **January’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Establishing and Extending Metaphors**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/extending-metaphors.htm) | Describe your favorite piece of technology from a much older person’s point of view. | Describe a child receiving really bad advice from his/her imaginary friend. |
| Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent for washing your pet. | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Sports Words* | *“I was horribly hot!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it! | Personify a vocabulary word recently studied in science class. Write and illustrate! | Write a new *So Much Depends Upon… poem* that is about a topic you studied in science. |
| *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a new math vocab word and turn it into a “person.” | “Where did you hide?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | Justify it! Create arguments in favor of the age when kids need no more babysitters. | *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream job* be? | Create an advertisement to sell one of the best books you’ve ever read. |

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**February’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Create an advertisement to sell a modern scientific idea to a primitive culture. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a misused appliance could e-mail its owner, what would it write? | Justify it! Cite detailed reasons why Feb 14th should/should not be celebrated at school. | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | Personify a new vocab word recently studied in history class. Write and illustrate! |
| Write a new *So Much Depends Upon… poem* that is about a topic you studied in math. | “Why did you lie?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream city* be like? | Describe the sun or an unseasonal heat wave from a snowman’s point-of-view. | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Emotion Words* |
| Make a list of advice for someone who may be planning a romantic gesture this month. | Create an interesting original metaphor for *jealousy*. “Extend it” in your notebook. | **February’s** [***Start & Stop Poems* Across the Curriculum**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/start-and-stop-poems.htm) | *“Convince Me!” Prompt* Think of a bad habit someone has. Write a persuasive argument. | List 5-10 things/games you do/play to alleviate boredom when you’re standing in a line. |
| With a pirate’s voice, write step-by-step directions for finding your hidden treasure. | *What two plants feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | *Unusual History Cookbook!* Write new “recipe” for a past event, like a *war* or *movement*. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *valentine* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. | Recording Math Rhymes!  List 3 math vocab words that you can make 5-10 rhymes for. |
| *What does a math problem think about?* Answer this creatively in your notebook. | Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent for babysitting. | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite family member in your notebook. | *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a natural disaster and turn it into a “person.” | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! |

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**March’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Create an ad to sell an original snack item you invent, like chocolate-covered pizza. | *Justify it!* Cite detailed reasons why a new technology fad won’t (or shouldn’t) last. | *What does a moth think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Create a new metaphor for recent *science* content. “Extend it” in your notebook. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *mistake* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. |
| *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream vacation* be? | Write a new *So Much Depends Upon…* Poem that is about character from a novel you like. | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a crayon could e-mail advice to a child, what would the e-mail say? | Describe the dryer or the washer from one of your sock’s point of view. |
| *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Turn *gossip* or *prejudice* into a person on a notebook page. | List 5-10 arguments you could make for being allowed to have a new pet or room. | **March’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Rhyming Slogans Across the Curriculum**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/rhyming-slogans.htm) | With a mosquito’s voice, write step-by-step instructions on feeding oneself. | Illustrate and label the parts of the most perfect backpack a student could own. |
| Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Weather Words.* | “Why seek revenge?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | *What two sports feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream a *geometric shape* has. |
| *Justify it!* If science wasn’t an issue, what planet should mankind colonize first? | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite game in your writer’s notebook. | Draw/label a blueprint of your home. Highlight 3-4 places where fun things have happened. | *“I was simply speechless!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it! | Personify a new vocab word recently studied in math class. Write and illustrate! |

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**April’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *Springtime.* | Write a new *So Much Depends Upon… poem* that is about grammar or punctuation. | Create a list of 5-10 items that—if brought to a sleep-over—would improve the event! | *Living the Dream!*  If money were not an issue, what would your *dream weekend* be? | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! |
| Create an interesting new metaphor for a *history* topic. “Extend it” in your notebook. | With a food critic’s voice, describe a meal once eaten in the school cafeteria. | *What internal organs feud the most?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | Create 5 new rhyming slogans about math or science and illustrate them in your notebook. |
| Personify a new vocab word recently studied in reading class. Write and illustrate! | *What does your iPod think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | **April’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Superlative Paragraphs**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/important-passages.htm) | Describe a vegetable garden from a bee or a brand new seedling’s point of view. | “Where is the scar?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. |
| *“Convince Me!” Prompt* Think of a parental rule you don’t like. Write a persuasive argument. | List 5-10 images that you look for when you want to be sure spring has finally arrived. | Create an advertisement to sell one of your chores to a classmate. | *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Take one of the six writing traits and turn it into a “person.” | Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite restaurant in your writer’s notebook. |
| Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent to change whole world. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *invention* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. | Make a list of advice that a dog, cat, or other pet might give, if it had the ability to do so. | *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If musical instruments could gripe with e-mail, what would they say? | List 10-20 things that you can physically do now that you won’t be able to in 25 years. |

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**May’s Bingo Card** – Writer’s Notebook Challenges

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| *What does a genius think about?* Answer this question creatively in your notebook. | *Living the Dream!*  If you could design it, what would your *dream computer* do? | Design an original award that you would give to someone you’ve learned to respect. | Look at your *ABC’s of Things You Might Write This Year* list. Begin one you haven’t written to! | *Personify an Abstract Noun!* Choose a periodic element and turn it into a “person.” |
| With a P.E. teacher’s voice, explain the perils of watching too much television. | Invent several original characters that have interesting names. Describe & draw them. | Create an interesting, new metaphor for a *math* topic. “Extend it” in your notebook. | Write a speech that would convince a good friend to eat your least-favorite food. | *“I was probably too honest!”* Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. |
| *Weird e-mail correspondence!*  If a book’s character e-mailed his/her author, what might be said? | *What two English words feud the most?* Answer this creatively in your notebook. | **May’s Teacher-Guided Lesson**  [**Interesting Story Titles for Summer Writing**](http://corbettharrison.com/lessons/paper-bag-princess.htm) | Describe a bad piece of writing from a punctuation mark’s point-of-view. | *Worst* or *best*? Put one of these superlatives in front of the word *game* and write about what comes to mind. Illustrate the writing. |
| Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it! | Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: *vacation* | What are 5-10 annoying things you wish the police could give people tickets for? | “What fell & broke?” Write a narrative with a first sentence that answers that question. | Illustrate and label the parts of a new machine you’d invent to annoy one of your teachers. |
| Create 3 new rhyming slogans for social studies and illustrate them in your notebook. | *Unusual Nightmares Prompt!* Describe and illustrate a bad dream a *book’s character* might have. | Create an ad that tries to sell a disease you’ve learned about to someone healthy. | Personify a new vocab word from the year you just like the sound of. Write and illustrate! | List 5-10 pieces of good advice you’d give to a new student coming to this class next year. |

Remember, you don’t have to use the ideas on this Bingo card; these are simply suggestions if you find yourself needing an idea on a writer’s notebook day in class. By the end of the year, I actually expect you to be discovering your own writing ideas for your notebook most of the time!