Prewriting Ideas

Use these prewriting ideas to help you find writing topics. You can also use these ideas to help you focus, explore, or narrow your topic. Note: These activities have been addressed to the children, as you will be reading the activities aloud to them.

▷ **Reading** Read stories in books and magazines. Make a list of story ideas that you think of.

▷ **Brainstorming settings** Draw or list interesting, scary, or strange places where stories can take place.

▷ **Brainstorming characters** Draw or list three interesting characters. Show or tell how they think, act, and look.

▷ **Drawing** Draw a picture that shows one or more people doing something. Then tell what they will do next.

▷ **Talking and listening in pairs** Work with a partner. Tell each other your story ideas. Tell whom each story will be about and what will happen.

▷ **Using puppets** Choose a puppet. Have classmates choose other puppets. Then act out a story.

▷ **Looking at art** Look at paintings, drawings, and photos. Tell what stories you see in them.

▷ **Listening to music** Listen to music. Close your eyes and try to picture what is happening. Write a sentence or more telling what you picture.

▷ **Dramatizing** Pretend to be a character in a play. Tell the class what kind of person you are. Tell them what problem you have or what you are hoping to do. Choose two or three of your classmates to play other characters. Then act out the story.

▷ **Observing** Watch people in your class, school, or home. Make up a problem for them to solve. Then tell what you think would happen.

▷ **Watching television and movies** Think about interesting movies and shows you have seen. What new story ideas do they make you think of?