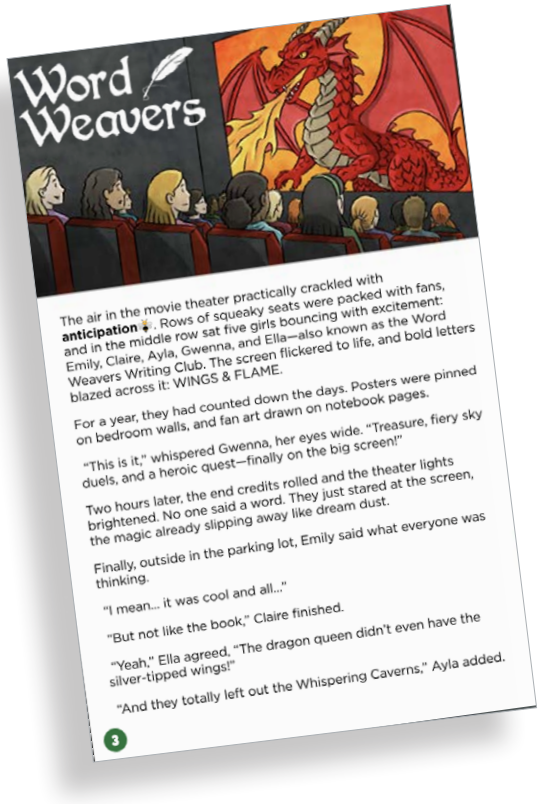
Article Overviews and Conversation Starters

This month, your kids will be reading several articles. Below you'll find summaries of each one along with suggested conversation starters. These discussions will help reinforce key concepts while also giving you, the parent, an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives on the topic.



Word Weavers

In this article, the Word Weavers Writing Club can't wait to see their favorite fantasy novel *Wings & Flame* turned into a movie. But when the credits roll, they realize something is missing—the book felt more powerful. Later, over boba tea, they discover why: books engage imagination in ways movies can't. Words let readers bring their own memories, emotions, and creativity into the story. They also realize that words aren't just for fantasy—they've changed history, from Thomas Paine's Common Sense to Mark Twain's novels. Together, they conclude that stories have real power to shape minds and even the world.

Conversation Starters

- Can you think of a book you've read that felt more powerful than its movie version? Why?
- Do you think words can change the world as much as movies can? Why or why not?
- What kind of story would you like to write if you were part of the Word Weavers club?

Parent Guide: September 2025

An Interview With Ella Quill

Ella Quill started writing stories when she was just six years old, making stapled-together picture books about a bunny. Inspired by reading *The Green Ember*, she eventually wrote her first real novel, *The Hidden Haven*, at only fourteen years old! Her book about chipmunks has given her confidence, brought her encouragement from family and friends, and even found readers worldwide. Ella's advice to other young authors is simple but powerful: accept feedback, don't wait for perfection, and keep writing with patience.



Conversation Starters

- Why do you think feedback, even criticism, can be helpful instead of discouraging?
- What's something you've tried that took patience and practice before you got better at it?

You Can Become a Writer!

This article lays out five basic but powerful tips for anyone who wants to become a writer. First, Read! Great writers learn by studying other great authors. Second, Journal! Write down your own thoughts and experiences as inspiration. Third, use the 3 P's—Person, Place, Problem—to give your story structure. Fourth, Write, Write, Write! The only way to improve is to practice. Finally, Finish! Don't give up on stories—push through to the end. With these steps, anyone can develop their unique voice and grow into a confident storyteller.



Conversation Starters

- Which of the five tips do you think would help you the most?
- Why do you think finishing something is harder than starting it?

Latest Buzz: Relying on Robots

Some students today are turning to artificial intelligence (AI) to write their schoolwork for them—but this shortcut comes with problems. AI often gets facts wrong, makes up information, or provides low-quality writing because it pulls from unreliable sources. Even worse, overusing AI takes away the joy and challenge of creating your own ideas. Writing is more than just homework—it's a way to discover who you are, think deeply, and share your unique voice with others. Relying on robots may seem easy, but it risks losing the creativity and purpose that come from thinking for yourself.


THE LATEST BUZZ

Relying on Robots

ChatGPT

A UCLA college graduate joked that he used artificial intelligence (AI) to write his schoolwork—but he's not the only student challenging the acceptable use of this technology. In England, thousands of students were caught using AI to cheat. In the U.S., more than half of teachers say they've had to punish students for using AI to avoid thinking and doing their own work.

On the surface, some people might find it funny that students are using "robots" to skip the **regurgitation** of facts to complete homework. But the trend **foreshadows** deeper problems ahead.

First, AI tools don't always follow directions, give good answers, or even tell the truth. Since AI gets its "knowledge" from the internet (which is full of mistakes and badly written stuff), the information it shares can be wrong or low-quality.

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Conversation Starters

- How is writing your own story or essay different from having a computer do it?
- What makes your personal voice and ideas valuable, even if they're not "perfect"?

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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