



LITERATURE+WRITING

Integrated Discovery Guides



OUR DISCOVERY METHOD™

Help students develop an integrated tradition of reading and writing through our Discovery Method. As they engage in the consistency of paced exercises, students will confidently respond to textual structures and practice the mechanical tasks that will enable them to read deeply, write authentically, and bring shape to their original ideas. Over time, your students will develop habits that permit them to discover the rich and diverse potential of story while engaging in increasingly challenging content.

DISCOVERY GUIDE COMPONENTS

- **ACQUIRE** – *Vocabulary Development*
- **JOURNAL** – *Note-taking*
- **RECOLLECT** – *Comprehension*
- **EXPLORE** – *Writing*
- **EXPLORE** – *Discussion*
- **GLEAN** – *Extension Activities*

DISCOVERY GUIDE LEVELS

Earlybird (Grades K-2)

Our Earlybird guides are for Kindergarten through 2nd grade students who are ready to write, ready to explore great stories, and ready to practice emergent decoding and encoding skills. Each guide explores 5 books by the same author, or 5 books within a theme, and is designed to be completed in 6 weeks. You choose 4 individual guides to use throughout the school year.

Level 1 (Grades 2-3) / Level 2 (Grades 3-5) / Level 3 (Grades 5-8)

Through our integrated approach to literary analysis and writing, the majority of literacy standards are met and surpassed as you empower your students to be mentored by great stories. Each guide explores one book over the course of 5 weeks. You choose 6 individual guides to use throughout the school year.

Level 4 (Grades 9-12)

In addition to tracing character development, students will also research themes, symbols, and motifs, have weekly writing activities and culminate study with an original essay and creative project. Each guide explores one book over the course of 5 weeks. You choose 6 individual guides to use throughout the school year.

Pre-selected year packs for each level are available on our website for more information visit: blackbirdandcompany.com



RESEARCH

Discovery Guides

Blackbird & Company Research Discovery Guides inspire students to engage in meaningful research activities over time. As students are encouraged to independently investigate, they will gain a greater depth of understanding, and a broader knowledge base.



ELEMENTAL JOURNAL

Grades 5-9

Students are guided on a wonderful voyage through the mysteries of the periodic table. Over the course of a year students will research and catalog their findings on 42 of the 144 known elements. Elemental Journal is an exciting and broad introduction into the fascinating realm of chemistry.



TAXONOMY OF LIVING THINGS

Grades 5-9

Life on Earth is incredibly diverse. All living things can be ordered according to their common biology. Classification allows scientists to explore levels of similarity, dissimilarity, and interconnectedness of cells, systems, and structures. The first level of classification is the five Kingdoms, Protista, Monera, Fungi, Plantae, and Animalia. Over the course of a year, as students explore the diversity of living things, they will gather knowledge that will connect to many corners of the field of biology.



FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM AMERICA'S HISTORY

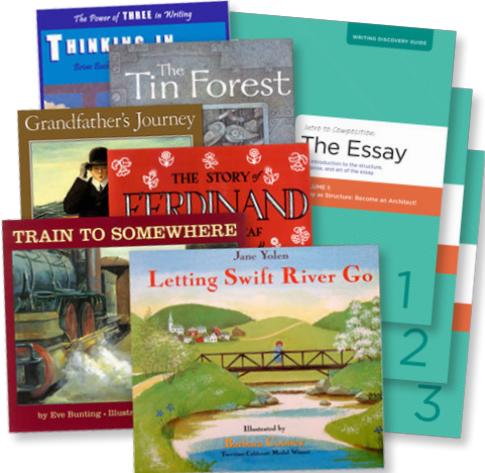
Grades 5-9

Our scaffolding enables students to imagine and be inspired by the impact of a singular and purposeful lifetime on the formation of our nation. Highly organized research will not only help students be prepared to write their findings, but will lead to meaningful curiosity-driven work. Students will utilize a lexicon that will enable them to extract inspiring bits of information from each famous person's life, information that will later help them to construct an original telling in the form of an essay and creative project. A deep understanding of history will unfold through meaningful independent research.



COMPOSITION

Discovery Guides



INTRO TO COMPOSITION: The Essay

Grades 5-9

Great essays encourage, empower, and enlighten. For this reason essay writing should not be treated as just a mechanical endeavor, but rather, as a pathway for the writer to communicate the depths of the heart and mind.

Each volume in this 3 volume unit includes 5 lessons to be completed over ten weeks time, designed to mentor the student in the art of essay writing. Volume 1 teaches the structure of an essay, Volume 2 teaches the descriptive essay and volume 3 teaches the literary essay.

EXPLORING POETRY

Grades 5-12

Reading and writing poetry expands the boundaries of the imagination and intellect. Students who engage in writing poetry will develop confidence in their voice, strengthen their ability to communicate new ideas, and convey observations of their world.

Moving from reading and recognizing poetic ideas, to engaging in personal expression through writing, develops an awareness of the world at large. As This 7 week unit encourages students to understand poetry and engage in the process of writing poetry, they will discover that some things can only be said through a great poem, and that great poetry builds a strong foundation for better prose.

OPERATION LEXICON

Grades 5-9

Words are specific, precise, and worthy of collection. Over the course of 26 weeks, students will explore a cluster of words from the lexicons of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkein.

ONE TRUE SENTENCE

Grades 5-9

In simplistic terms, the sentence is a collection of words that either states, exclains, asks, or commands. Over the course of 25 weeks, students will closely examine exceptional sentences from great literature, and learn to craft their own *true sentences* as they model the patterns and concepts they see.

These two journals are recommended for use with: Level 3 and 4 Literature+Writing Discovery Guides, and with Introduction to Composition: The Essay.





COMPLETE TITLE LIST

literature + writing

EARLYBIRD

CHOOSE 4 PER YEAR

Author Units

Virginia Lee Burton
Douglas Florian
Paul Galdone
Ezra Jack Keats
Leo Lionni
Robert McCloskey
Patricia Polacco

Thematic Units

Winter Stories
Spring Stories
Summer Stories
Fall Stories
Art Discovery
Destinations

LEVEL 1

CHOOSE 6 PER YEAR

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
The Courage of Sarah Noble
Donavan's Word Jar
Flat Stanley
Hundred Dresses
The Iron Dragon Never Sleeps
The Iron Giant
Love That Dog
The Matchlock Gun
More Perfect than the Moon
A Mouse Called Wolf
My Father's Dragon
My Name is Maria Isabel
Sarah Plain and Tall
Stone Fox
Tippy Lemmey
Tornado
The Year of Miss Agnes

LEVEL 2

CHOOSE 6 PER YEAR

Because of Winn-Dixie
Ben and Me
The Cay
The City of Ember
Danny the Champion of the World
The Family Under the Bridge
Farmer Boy
Frindle
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Half Magic
Homer Price
Ida B
Journey to Jo'Burg
Loser
Macaroni Boy
The Magician's Nephew
Perloo The Bold
Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs
Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet

LEVEL 4

CHOOSE 6 PER YEAR

Abraham Lincoln
The Book Thief
Code Talker
Counting by 7s
Of Courage Undaunted
The Folk Keeper
The Giver
Homeless Bird
I, Juan de Pareja
The Red Umbrella
Skellig

composition

Intro to Composition: The Essay
Exploring Poetry
Operation Lexicon
One True Sentence

research

Elemental Journal
Taxonomy of Living Things
Famous People from America's History

FOR CURRENT
PRICING, VISIT
OUR WEBSITE.

CONTACT US
DIRECTLY FOR
CLASSROOM &
WHOLESALE
PURCHASING
INFORMATION



Pre-selected year packs for each level are available on our website

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