

All About ME

JOURNALS

First-person writing is ideal for beginning writers. A journal allows students to draw on prior experiences and explore their interactions with others. Encourage students to tell their own story in a journal.



—John Ueland

introduce the genre

A **journal** is a diary of day-to-day events and a great way to record memories. Journals allow beginning writers to write about a subject they know best—themselves. Students can capture their thoughts, feelings, and dreams in journals—and they don't have to be limited to words. Decorating journals, adding inspiring quotes, sketching, or including meaningful photos are other ways students can express themselves.

“Memory ... is the diary that we all carry about with us.”

—Oscar Wilde (1854–1900), *Irish-born playwright*

spark creativity: story starters

Use these journal prompts to engage students in self-discovery.

Research. What happened on the day you were born? What big stories were in the news? Which songs or movies were most popular that year? Which famous people share your birthday? To find out, visit www.scopesys.com/anyday or www.historychannel.com.

Describe. Which words would you use to describe yourself? Why? What is your favorite time of day? Your special place? Where would you travel if you could go anywhere? For more journal prompts, use the reproducibles **“All About Me”** and **“Me, By Me.”**

Remember. Choose a favorite family photograph and describe the image. Who appears in the photo? What do you remember about the moment it was taken?

Imagine. What is your favorite book? Do you identify with a particular character? Does the book hold an important message? Write a journal entry from the point of view of a character in your favorite book.

WRITING TIP: Use Your Senses

When writing, focus not just on how something looked but also on how it smelled, tasted, sounded, and felt. Try using all your senses to describe the following: cotton candy; a carnival ride; a rainy day; playing hide and seek.