

How to WordPlay

Playing With Words

Like playing a game, WordPlay games and ideas need rules to make them work. Here are the rules:

1. *Spelling doesn't count – yet.*

When you're writing a first draft, you need to think about big ideas and how to express them – like how a character feels about being pushed into a mud puddle. Later, when you edit your writing, you can make sure every word is spelled correctly and every comma is in the right place.

2. *Once you start writing, keep writing for at least three minutes.*

If you get stuck, write the same word over and over until you get started again. Or write about how you can't think of any ideas, how dumb this idea is, and so on. After you get tired of writing gobbledygook, something wonderful might come out. You just need to keep writing.

3. *Have fun!*

Although writing can feel like hard work, WordPlay is about having fun with words.

Keep Your Junk

Always keep your writing, even if it seems like junk. You may want to rewrite it later. Keep it in a special place – like a folder or box. Decorate the box, if you want. Make it special. After all, this is your portfolio of writing. It is unique to you.

karen crossing

Author for kids and teens
www.karencrossing.com