

How to Share Your Writing

Writing is meant to be read, just like a drawing is meant to be seen or a song is meant to be heard. Still, you don't have to share everything you write. Some writing may be too private or personal. It's great to share some of your writing some of the time.

I've used these WordPlay ideas by myself, with a friend, and with a group. Sometimes I write alone then read it later to a friend. When I write with others, we usually take turns reading what we wrote.

Before you read your writing to others, tell them how you want them to respond. Suggest they say what they like about the writing. You'll feel more encouraged by positive suggestions – and learn about writing by examining what works.

Do the same when you're responding to someone else's writing. For example, you might begin with:

- *I like how you . . .*
- *It's interesting when you . . .*
- *I'm curious about . . .*

Ask questions if you're not clear about something. For example:

- *Why did your character push him into the mud puddle?*
- *How did he feel when he landed in the puddle?*

These questions will encourage the writer to rethink and revise the writing.