



You Have to Write

By Janet S. Wong

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You have to write! It's a class assignment. But you have nothing to write about. All the other kids seem to have something to tell because they start in right away. What can you do? Stop and think. No one else can tell *your* stories -- about your family, your dog or cat. No one else can tell how it was when your library book got soaked in the rain.

But what if you don't like what you write? There are all sorts of ways to change it, to make it better. Keep on playing with your words, putting them together in different ways. You want whatever you write to be good. It will get better and better as you work on it.

This is an encouraging book, sympathetically illustrated by Teresa Flavin's charming pictures, for all young readers who worry when they're told to write something.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-This book's gentle but direct approach to creative writing may not appeal to all youngsters, but it may help some students to address some common struggles and to find their own voices. Through free-verse poetry, Wong targets a group of youngsters looking for good topics for a writing assignment. "You want it to be good, to make us cry or bust up laughing when the room is quiet." They are encouraged to look around, and not to be discouraged by the worldliness or experiences of others. "Wait. Did you forget who you are? Who else can say what you have seen? Who else can tell your stories-." A photo albumlike page shows a variety of pets, holidays, hobbies, vacations, and family outings that could be possible topics. "Reach inside. Write about the dark times. -Write about the bright times. -Take your mind for a walk back to this morning, back to yesterday-." Examples are given of parents fighting, a wet library book growing mildew, childhood fears of storms, and taking out the trash. For "Weave them together- half of Draft 1, a word from Draft 4, a whole line from number 5. Try. Because you have to write, and you want it to be good," the illustration shows each child laying out stretches of many drafts on the floor. The simple realistic gouache paintings are rather ordinary but appropriate for the "writing from life" philosophy that is espoused.

Adele Greenlee, Bethel College, St. Paul, MN

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 2-4. It's the dreaded class task: write something! "You have to write. You hate to write." Wong's poetic text, which encourages kids to use their own experiences, is practical and also sometimes amusing. The with-it rhymes set the tone while gouache illustrations depict four diverse kids as they sift through the advice, thinking and envisioning. One scene shows the students at their desks picturing different locations they might write about. A variety of page compositions effectively exemplify various choices by using overlapping scenes and albumlike framed images. "Take your mind for a walk" and "think about the plain, the everyday." The direct, you-can-do-it approach will stimulate kids to write and also help them with that dismaying assignment. Lots of classroom teachers will find this a great motivator. *Julie Cummins*

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About the Author

Janet S. Wong is the author of more than a dozen picture books and poetry collections. Her work includes *Night Garden: Poems from the World of Dreams*, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book, and *Knock on Wood: Poems About Superstitions*, both illustrated by Julie Paschkis, as well as *Grump*, a Charlotte Zolotow Award Highly Commended Book, illustrated by John Wallace. Janet lives with her family in Medina, Washington.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tina Olsen:

The knowledge that you get from You Have to Write will be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but You Have to Write giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this

guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific You Have to Write instantly.

Matilda Greiner:

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Ali Ellison:

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William Kozak:

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