

GRADES 3-5



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:**

Today you will explore the American Writers Museum to learn more about the history and process of writing. Please use the educational materials to help guide your visit. Your interactions with the exhibits will help you to answer the questions in this packet. We encourage you to take your time and to answer the questions thoughtfully.

At the end of your visit, we will gather as a group to discuss your field trip experience. Please be prepared to share your answers in this packet.

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**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE GALLERY**

1. Who is the main character in the book, *Where the Wild Things Are*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Read *Where the Wild Things Are* (4-minute read). After reading the story, do you think Max's punishment is fair? Why or why not?

2. ***Charlotte's Web***

- a. Select 3 words that describe your personality from the selection of word tiles.

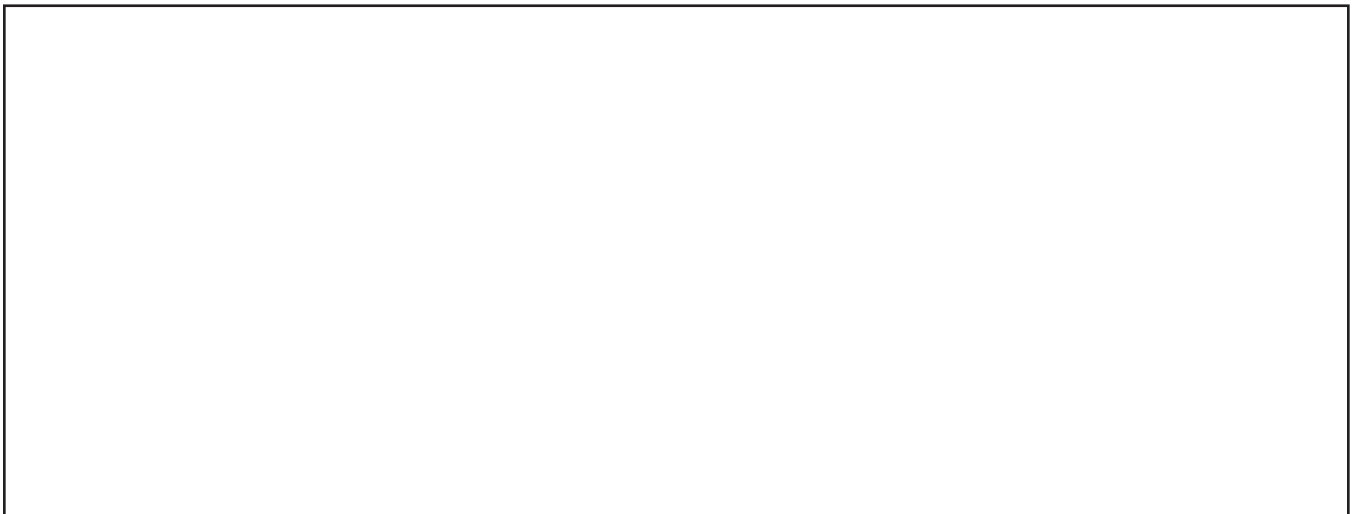
Create a sentence for each of those words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Listen to the poem ***The Weary Blues*** by Langston Hughes.

You can also read along from the ***Dream Keeper*** and other poems on pages 30-31.

- a. Why do you think the author repeats the line, *He did a lazy sway*?



4. ***Squirrel Mural***

- a. Draw your own squirrel doing an action based on your favorite children's book.

If you already see your favorite book depicted in the mural, how would you change it?



## AMERICAN VOICES

Below are three of the more than 300 writers highlighted in the museum. Please select **ONE (1)** of the following authors to explore. You can find more information on all the authors listed in this packet in our **American Voices** virtual exhibit.

### Era: Colonial Vision

**Abigail Adams** - Abigail Adams's letters to her husband, John, reveal a thoughtful, humorous, and engaging writer. Between the Revolution and John's political career, the two were often separated. While John traveled, Abigail stayed in Massachusetts to manage the family's business matters.

Write a letter to a relative or friend. How would you describe current events, family, or daily life to them?

**Phillis Wheatley** - Phillis Wheatley became the first published African-American author at the age of 20. She so impressed George Washington with a poem that he asked to meet her. During her visit with the president, he treated Wheatley with a respect unusual for a slave owner.

If you had the opportunity to travel back in time to meet author Phillis Wheatley, what do you imagine talking to her would be like?

Create a conversation with the author Phillis Wheatley.

**Louisa May Alcott** - In 1868, Alcott transformed the field of children's literature with *Little Women*. Based on Alcott's own upbringing, the novel painted a compelling portrait of family life.

Using your own family as inspiration, create a short story about a moment with your family.

## SURPRISE BOOKSHELF

Find all the different things in our **Surprise Bookshelf** located in the **Nation of Writers** gallery.

1. Find at least 2 smells:

Name of Author	Name of Book/Work	What kind of smell was it? Does this scent remind you of anything?

Describe a smell that you like. What memories do you have of that scent?

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2. Find at least 2 dioramas:

Name of Author	Name of Book/Work	How is the diorama connected to the work?

What kind of diorama would you create for the following work?

*(Please read the text for the following work and create a diorama based on the text.)*

- Charles M. Schulz, ***Peanuts***, 1950
- Robert McCloskey, ***Make Way for Ducklings***, 1941

## The Word Waterfall exhibit

**Personal Word Waterfall:** As you explore the exhibit, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.

## READERS HALL

### Independent Voices

Read the short story, *Blue Ribbon* (8-minute read), in *Upside Down and Backwards* by Diane Gonzales Bertrand.

1. The author writes, “Alonzo took the blue ribbon to his room. He hid it under his comic books. He slid the whole pile under the bed. He did not want to look at the ribbon or talk about science anymore.”

- a. Why do you think Alonzo’s feelings change about the ribbon? \_\_\_\_\_

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- b. Where in the story supports your thought? \_\_\_\_\_

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## MIND OF A WRITER GALLERY

### Featured Works

On our Featured Works table **LISTEN** to 1 (one) of the following excerpts and answer the question(s):

1. ***Harold and the Purple Crayon*** by Crockett Johnson
  - a. Using your imagination, describe the places or things Harold will see as he sets off on his walk.
2. ***The Snowy Day*** by Ezra Jack Keats
  - a. Recall your first encounter with snow. In your own words, describe this moment.

### Build a Routine

Describe a routine that makes you feel your best. Describe the space you are in? What objects and fuel are necessary for you to do your best work?

Do you share similarities to any of the authors displayed in terms of routines?

### Make Meaning

**Scaredy-cat** *noun* Timid person

Dorothy Parker's short story, ***The Waltz*** (1933), features a running internal monologue about a terrible dance partner. "Oh, yes, do let's dance together," thinks the narrator. "It's so nice to meet a man who isn't a scaredy-cat..."

Using what you have learned about writing so far, create a new word. What does it mean? Describe its definition.

## CHICAGO GALLERY

1. Lorraine Hansberry gave a speech about writing in 1964.

**“Write if you will: but write about the world as it is and as you think it ought to be and must be-if there is to be a world...Work hard at it, care about it. Write about our people: tell their story. You have something glorious to draw on begging for attention. Don’t pass it up.”**

The exhibit quotes this speech. What topics are you interested in writing about? Why?

Name THREE authors born between 1800-1900

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Who is E. Donald Two-Rivers? (List two occupations)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_