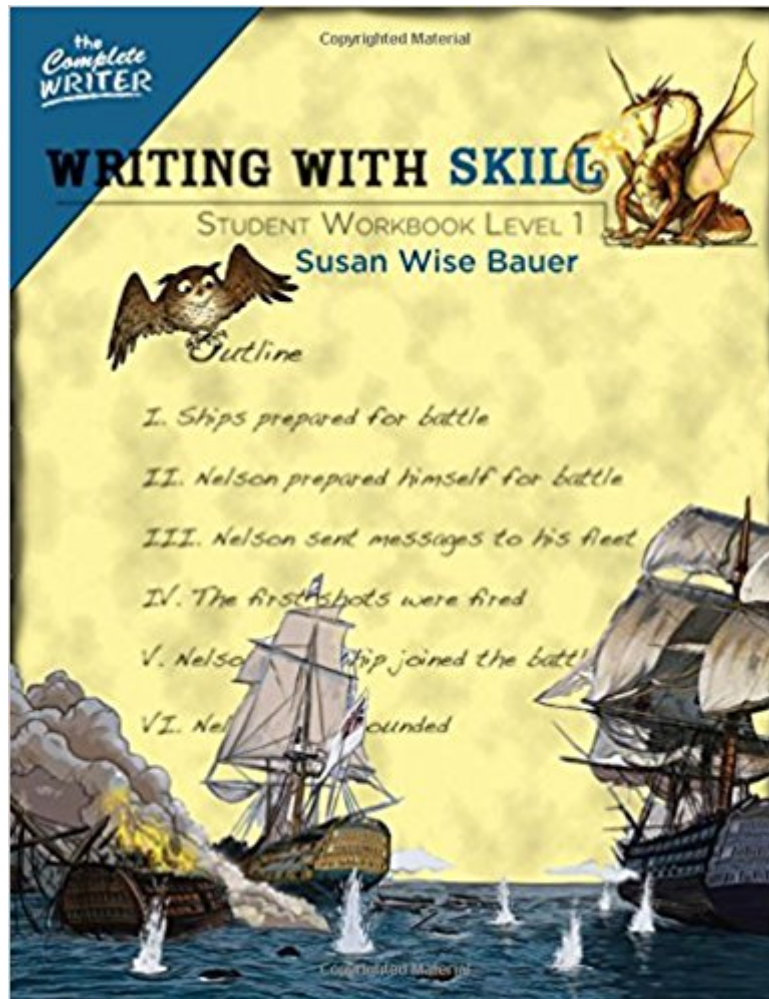


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# Writing With Skill, Level 1: Student Workbook (The Complete Writer)



## Synopsis

Traditional principles. Contemporary methods. Unparalleled results. This groundbreaking new writing series combines time-tested classical techniques—the imitation and analysis of great writers—with original composition exercises in history, science, biography, and literature.

**Skills Taught:**

- One- and two-level outlining
- Writing chronological narratives, biographical sketches, descriptions, and sequences across the curriculum
- Constructing basic literary essays on fiction and poetry
- Researching and documenting source material

First volume of four that will prepare students for high-level rhetoric and composition

**Features of the program:**

- Writing assignments are modeled on examples from great literature and classic nonfiction
- All source material for assignments is provided—no other books are needed
- This Student Workbook encourages independence by directing all assignments to the student
- Instructor Text (sold separately) provides scripted dialogue to use when the student has difficulty, plus detailed guidance on how to evaluate the student's work

First volume of four that will prepare students for high-level rhetoric and composition

Black-and-white illustrations throughout

## Book Information

Series: The Complete Writer

Paperback: 550 pages

Publisher: The Well-Trained Mind Press; Stu Wkb edition (January 16, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933339535

ISBN-13: 978-1933339535

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,322 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Homeschooling](#) #139 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Studying & Workbooks > Workbooks](#) #226 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Fiction](#)

## Customer Reviews

I have tried it all, it seems. This book is FINALLY the one! Teaching writing to one of my children has been like trying to teach a fish to do tricks--it has been the bane of my homeschooling career

thus far. Every other book we've tried has been miserable, with the child just not able to "get" it. This is the one that makes sense to her. It is clear, systematic, logical in progression, and with steps that get slowly but progressively more complicated (almost like it's tricking your child--"You're learning writing and it's even getting harder without you noticing! Ha!"). Seriously though, if you've struggled with teaching writing or your student has struggled with learning it, give this a try. I think it'll be especially good for kids with engineering-type brains.\*I would recommend this for kids age 11 and up.\*

Finally, a curriculum that is powerful, comprehensive, and systematic. Works for my dyslexic/dysgraphic son. Book is organized in such a way as to make homeschool teacher preparation minimal. Reading selections are excellent -- no twaddle. Thank you, Susan Wise Bauer!

I copied this from -

<http://forums.welltrainedmind.com/topic/303489-answering-questions-about-writing-with-skill/> - in hopes it will clarify the age issue. When people post it does help others if you can tell the age/grade of your child. 3) INTENDED AGE/GRADE: Writing With Skill can be begun by any student who is writing at a fifth grade level or above. If you're coming out of Writing With Ease: Children who have finished Writing With Ease 3 and are working at about a fifth-grade level can usually skip Writing With Ease 4 and go straight into Writing With Skill. Writing With Ease 4 continues to develop skills in narration and composition and also exposes children to a wider range of prose styles--all of this helps younger students mature to the point where they're ready to begin Writing With Skill. WWS asks students to write about a wide range of topics and also demands a fair amount of self-direction and determination...which is often a matter of maturity, not skill. If you're not sure, simply ask the student to complete Week 1 of the free PDF download (Week One: Narrative Summaries). If the student can do this without too much struggle, you can move on ahead in WWS.

Deer-in-the-headlights reaction = go back and work on WWE 4 for six months and then try again.

As I review this, I am only halfway through the text, but we like it so much, I didn't want to wait to share. If anything changes of my opinion, I will update it when I need to. I am a busy homeschooling mom, and I really like this curriculum as my sixth grade student does his work independently and then brings me the completed assignments. If he has trouble there are step by step instructions in the Instructor Text to help me help him, but most often he has no trouble. He has become more proficient in summarizing, outlining, using topic sentences, using a thesaurus, and writing

compositions. He writes research based essays almost weekly. I love the way the source material or sometimes the "notes" from the resources are included so he can focus on constructing clear and logical essays instead of on hunting down material and taking notes. The latter is useful, but takes so much time that the former is most often slighted in a curriculum that focuses on the dreaded once a year "research paper." (There is an independent research paper at the end of the year, but by that time, I really think it will not be "dreaded" but something he will not struggle with and maybe even enjoy.) He does not fear research or writing of any kind because it has been introduced slowly in easy bites. I do recommend the Instructor's Guide as it has helped me keep up with his work and help him whenever the need arises.

This is an excellent series for children who are not intuitive writers. Bauer is incredibly perceptive about writing and breaks down the steps explicitly, providing practice for each skill in isolation. She argues that the strategy of teaching kids to write by having them write more is not working; we are only giving them more opportunities to write badly. Bauer's writing books provide very specific, concentrated practice in individuals skills. My son has thrived on them and is now in the 5th grade book. The Writing with Skill series is a continuation of what began with the Writing With Ease books. It introduces outlining. It also introduces a concept that I had never come across before: Topoi. A topos is a a specific way of approaching a topic. Examples include: a chronological narrative of a past event, a description of a place, cause & effect argument, or a description of a scientific discovery. There are many more, and Bauer gives very specific instruction on how to write the topos in the most natural, logical and captivating way possible. Her instruction is not vague or general; it is very helpful and meaty. I think, perhaps, she is even improving my own writing. My reluctant writer has so many focused opportunities for success that his self-image as a writer has sky-rocketed.

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