

Click on any pencil to return to the WritingFix Homepage.



Our Interactive Writing Prompts: Categorized by the 6 Writing Traits

[The 6-Trait Homepage](#)

[Idea Development](#)

[Organization](#)

[Voice](#)

[Word Choice](#)

[Sentence Fluency](#)

[Conventions](#)

[Picture Books and the 6 Traits Homepage](#)

[Chapter Books and the 6 Traits Homepage](#)

[6-Trait Post-It Notes for Revision and Response](#)

# Welcome to WritingFix

WritingFix: Where getting a daily "fix" of writing is more important than fixing your writing. Write EVERY day!

Hello and welcome...Have you been inspired to do any writing today?

## Delightful Desert Dwellers

recommended for writers, ages 7 and up

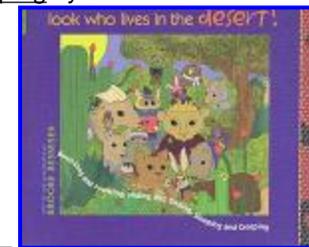
Jump right down to the **Student Instructions** for this interactive writing prompt by clicking [here](#).

**Washoe County Teachers:** If you have your library card handy, the book used in this lesson can be held and sent to your closest branch by clicking [here](#).

### Quick Site Navigation:

<a href="#">Right-Brained Prompts</a>	<a href="#">Left-Brained Prompts</a>
<a href="#">Daily Writing Prompts</a>	<a href="#">WritingFix for Kids</a>
<a href="#">Picture Book Prompts</a>	<a href="#">Chapter Book Prompts</a>
<a href="#">Poetry Prompts</a>	<a href="#">Classics of Lit Prompts</a>
<a href="#">6 Traits Homepage</a>	<a href="#">WritingFix Homepage</a>

**6+1 Trait Alert:** Look Who Lives in the Desert: Bouncing and Pouncing, Hiding and Gliding, Sleeping and Creeping by Brooke Bessesen is a fun- and fact-filled look at some of the most well-known and interesting desert creatures. Bessesen uses whimsical poetry with interesting adjectives and exciting verbs to introduce these critters to readers. Her fabric collage illustrations are unique and beautiful. Alongside the poetry, the author includes real wildlife photographs and scientific facts on each animal. This only helps to enhance her poetry. The writing activity below focuses on careful selection of adjectives and/or verbs before writing--a skill from the trait of [WORD CHOICE](#) . Click [here](#) to learn more about the writing traits and WritingFix.



**Hey Writers and Teachers:** Teacher Pamela Briant created this interactive prompt while taking an in-service funded by the [SBC Technology Grant](#) (in conjunction with the [Washoe County Education Foundation](#)) in 2006. Teachers from the [Northern Nevada Writing Project](#) taught the class, and happily share its [outline](#) and this brand new interactive lesson for teachers and students.

Says Pamela, "Teachers should incorporate this book into a science unit on deserts. Visit the book more than once. The first read should focus on its poetry and illustrations. The teacher should point out the descriptive adjectives and interesting verbs associated with each animal poem...as well as the unique illustrations. Many of these verbs and adjectives can be added to already-existing adjective and verb charts that may already exist in your classroom. These two aspects of the book will help the students easily relate to each of the animals. The second read should introduce the interesting and often unusual facts about the animals along with the real life photographs. During this read teachers could use the information gathered to make classroom charts on such areas as predator/prey, diurnal/nocturnal, etc. After each read students can use the writing activity in a variety of ways to create class books, individual sentences, and individual stories related to the animals presented. Be certain students focus on descriptive adjectives and or verbs when doing their writings after playing the writing activity below."

Activity #4 below refers to another book, [Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?](#), as an inspiration for original student writing about the desert. Click on the title, to see ordering information, if you don't already own this excellent book.

Our Interactive Writing Prompts:  
Categorized by Creative  
(Right-Brained) Writing  
Techniques

[Word Games with  
Serendipity](#)

[Story Starters for Writers](#)

[Great Sentence Creators](#)

[Who/What/When/Where  
Game](#)

[Visual Sparks for Writers](#)

[Right-Brained Poetry  
Prompts](#)

[Alliterative Sparks for  
Writers](#)

[Miscellaneous Right-  
Brained Writing Prompts](#)

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Our Interactive Writing Prompts:  
Categorized by Logical  
(Left-Brained) Writing  
Techniques

[The Start & Stop Game](#)

[Imitating Written Structures](#)

[Step-by-Step Mini Writers'  
Workshops](#)

[List Writes](#)

[Playing with Language](#)

You, of course, can inspire your students to write to this prompt without reading the book, [Look Who Lives in the Desert: Bouncing and Pouncing, Hiding and Gliding, Sleeping and Creeping](#) by Brooke Bessesen, but why would you? This is a marvelous book to add to your classroom library, and it will inspire student's use of the writing trait voice, if the students play the interactive word game below.

**TEACHING BONUS!** A student self-assessment tool is available for this writing assignment! Click [here](#) to open our Word Choice "Post-It" notes, which are designed to be used by the students after they have written a rough draft and are preparing for revision. You can either Xerox the sheet, cut the notes out, and staple one to each student's drafts...or you can print them right on actual "Post-It" notes by following the instructions. This sheet of "Post-Its" is a virus free, Microsoft Word Document!

**Student/Writer Instructions:** Like in [Look Who Lives in the Desert](#), you will be writing about desert animals today, and you will write with **interesting verbs** and **adjectives**. Choose which activity you want to do from below, or have your teacher choose one for you.

**Activity #1:** You will be writing seven awesome desert sentences, using buttons 1, 2, 3 & 4. Use button #1 to pick an amazing adjective. Use button #2 to pick a favorite desert critter. Use button #3 to pick an interesting verb and use button #4 to pick a desert location. Remember to write all of your choices down and your awesome sentence will appear.

**Activity #2:** You will be writing a 3-paragraph story from the point-of-view of your favorite desert animal. Use button #2 to pick a favorite desert creature. Use button #4 to pick an interesting location where you might find your animal. Use this information for this prompt: *If I were a \_\_\_\_\_, how would I view the desert?* Some of this could be fact and some could be fiction. Be sure to visit buttons #1 or #3, if you're looking for amazing adjectives and interesting verbs to include in your story. Be sure to write all your choices down as you select them.

**Activity #3:** You will be writing an adventure about two unlikely desert partners (i.e. predator/prey). With button #2, pick your two unlikely partners. Using button #1 pick amazing adjectives that could describe your partners. Use button #3 to pick five interesting verbs that could relate to the partners and be used in your story. Use button #4 to pick three desert locations you could find your partners in your story. Be sure to write all of your selections down. Try to use them all as you write your adventure story.

**Activity #4:** You will be making a desert book, like [Coyote, Coyote, What Do You See?](#) Use button #2 to pick seven of your favorite desert animals. Make a list of these on your paper. Now use button #1 to pick an amazing adjective to describe each of your animals. Write down all your adjectives on your paper next to your animals. See your teacher for the book form and pictures you will use to complete your book.

## [Structured Paragraphs](#)

## [Left-Brained Poetry Prompts](#)

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Thumbnails of book covers are included here to encourage users to

It's okay to come up with your own words from the buttons above, if you're not inspired by any of ours!

**Please feel free to use the verbs in past tense if you need to (i.e. sleeping/slept)**

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If you happen to like what you wrote doing this picture-book-inspired exercise, send it to us at [publish@writingfix.com](mailto:publish@writingfix.com). We'll happily post inspirations below so that others can be inspired by your words and techniques.

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