

Henry Smith

Young Writers' Workshop

John Kalsbeek

If you are going to be a fourth, fifth, or sixth grader beginning next September and are interested in writing, this short article is written for you.

This summer something new is being planned. It has never been tried before by our schools. It's a pioneer venture that should be an adventure for every one of you. The plans are to hold a one-day writing workshop for young writers on Tuesday, July 15.

One of the goals of this workshop is to try to give you a fun and enjoyable writing experience. Writing is never easy. It usually involves a lot of hard work and effort. Even so, writing can be an experience that makes you feel good inside. When you are finished you feel pleased with your efforts.

A second goal is to encourage you as young writers to have a good attitude toward writing. Because writing is hard work, it is easy to try to avoid doing it or to be tempted to put it off. Some of your favorite writers like

Mr. Kalsbeek teaches 4th grade at Adams Street Christian School.

Marguerite Henry, Jim Kjelgaard, Beverly Cleary, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Meindert DeJong, and E.L. Konigsburg have learned to enjoy writing and have developed a good attitude toward writing. Many authors who write books for young people began writing at an early age. Hopefully this summer workshop will stimulate your interest in writing.

The writing activity will center in the idea of conflict. Most stories are written in such a way that the main person in the story has to face and overcome some kind of an enemy. Sometimes that enemy is an animal or sometimes it is something like a tornado or an earthquake or some other force in nature. In other stories the enemy may be another person — a boy or a girl.

Writing is easiest when you write about something you have experienced yourself. This idea will be stressed and emphasized in this summer workshop. Did you at one time hide your head under your pillow on a stormy night because you were afraid of thunder and lightening? That's what you should write about. Did you spend a couple of days in

the hospital because you were very sick? That's something you can write about. Were you at one time afraid of water? Write about your fear and how you overcame that fear. I write all this to set your minds to working because the theme for this summer's workshop will be "Conflict in Nature."

Along with this writing activity we are also planning to have a pizza lunch and some play time for relaxation. At the end of the day each one of you who participate will go home with a booklet containing all the stories written at the workshop. These booklets will also be distributed to each of our schools for other fourth, fifth, and sixth graders to read. Before you go home, each one of you will be given a neat and impressive T-shirt for your work for the day.

We were happy to see that so many of you registered for this summer's workshop. We are ex-

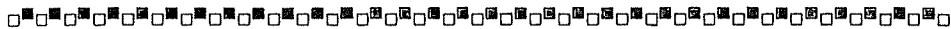
cited about this project and look forward to seeing you on July 15!

To Parents:

Last summer the Federation Board of our Protestant Reformed School Societies conducted a one-day mini-course for our teachers. The purpose of this mini-course was to encourage our teachers to stress writing activities across the curriculum — in all the different subject areas.

The idea for a summer workshop for young writers came out of this mini-course. The Federation Board liked the idea and decided to promote such a program this summer.

As stated in the above article, it is hoped that the writing activities of this workshop for young writers might, in a small way, encourage some of our young children to use their latent talents in writing to God's glory and praise.



BULLETIN BOARD

Bulletin boards often have lots of pictures. We'd like, this time, to make ours pictorial. We feature here our 1986 graduates. They come from ten of the eleven Protestant Reformed Schools in the United States. It happens that our Covenant Christian