

PBS Learning Media Resources

Teen Writer!

Forget flat, one-dimensional fiction and give readers a story that will stick with them long after they finish the last page! From creative writing prompts to innovative tips to infuse your fiction with unique details, *Teen Writer!* is a fun way to take your stories from *just fine* to *fabulous!*

Descriptive Writing & The Five Senses

Discover innovative ways to depict your story's *setting* with rich and specific descriptions – and it all starts with indulging your *five senses!* Award-winning writer Gina Catanzarite leads teens through an energizing exercise that challenges them to notice *and describe* not only what characters are *seeing*, but also what they're hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting in a story's setting.

[Exploring First-Person Narrative | The Great American Read](#) - Students explore the power of narrative voice in storytelling and in particular the first-person point of view. They engage with text through a shared reading exercise and view a video segment from The Great American Read. Finally, students analyze text to identify how authors use language and voice to channel the emotions and experiences of characters.

[The Power of Personal Narrative | The Great American Read](#) - Explore how stories can be cathartic for both storytellers and readers, and how personal narratives can drive a story in this listening and reading comprehension activity. Analyze the dramatic structure of a story by translating it from the first-person POV to a third-person POV.

[American Masters | My Antonia](#) - This video from the American Masters film Willa Cather: The Road Is All explores Cather's iconic novel, *My Antonia*. The novel recounts the narrator's memories of a childhood friend and is based on Cather's own experiences growing up on the Nebraska prairie.

[Poetry in America](#) gathers distinguished interpreters from all walks of life to explore and debate 12 unforgettable American poems. Athletes, poets, politicians, musicians, architects, scientists, actors, entrepreneurs, and citizens of all ages join together with host and Harvard professor Elisa New to experience and share the power of poetry.

