

# READER'S/WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

## WHAT IS THE READER'S/WRITER'S NOTEBOOK?

It is a notebook with loose-leaf paper that can be added, rearranged, or temporarily removed. Loose-leaf holed paper between pressboard covers, held together with rings would suffice.

Students will be asked to use a Reader's/Writer's Notebook this year.

## WHAT ARE TWO MAIN PURPOSES OF THE NOTEBOOK?

- It gives the writer a place for thinking and for trying out different voices and techniques.
- It also serves as a central notebook to store handouts, other papers, and calendars used in English language arts.

## WHAT ARE OTHER SPECIFIC USES OF THE NOTEBOOK?

- It is our classroom tool for thinking, recording ideas, generating writing ideas and trying out new voices.
- We use it for Quick Writes, 2-column notes, WriteAbouts, WriteLikes, criteria charts, class notes, brainstorming, etc.
- It is a place for writers to work through writing problems and to brainstorm.
- It is a place where we can go back to reread to select pieces for revision.
- It is a place where we can go back to reflect on how we have grown as readers and writers.

## HOW MAY STUDENTS SET UP THEIR OWN READER'S/WRITER'S NOTEBOOKS?

- Either on the cover or the first page of the notebook, ask students to write their name, class period, and the date they began using their notebook. They might also personalize their notebooks with decorations, pictures, nicknames, etc.
- On the top of the second page of the notebook, ask students to write "Table of Contents."
- On the first line of the Table of Contents page, ask students to write: "date," "topic," and "page number."
- Beginning with the Table of Contents, ask students to number the first 30 pages; students may number the rest of the pages when they get to page 30.
- Students can now begin using the Reader's/Writer's Notebooks on page 6 (pages 2-5 will be set aside for the table of contents).

Note: Because the Reader's/Writer's Notebooks is a place for students to think and try out different writing and reading ideas, encourage them to write and collect ideas in their notebooks as a habit of practice that extends beyond the times related to specific assignments for class.