



**Cinquain  
Woodpecker Chips**

**Be a Reader and Writer**

**Writing – Reading – Literature**

- Think like a writer.
- Make a list of words about summer. Use books or the Internet to find words others use to tell about warm weather or the seasons.  
Weather – warm, breeze, clouds, frost, rain, rainbows, sunlight  
Animals – Insects such as butterflies and bees, animal families of many kinds, singing birds.  
Plants – Buds, blossoms, leaves, growth and change  
Land and water – Summer puddles, mud, slush, erosion, hills and valleys  
Events – Independence Day
- What special words would weather forecasters use to tell about what you feel and see on the trail?
- Be a poet. Write how you think or feel about summer or about the plants and animals you see at this time of year. Write different kinds of poetry. Read poems others have written about summer. Use the list of summer words you compiled.
- Be a photo journalist. Plan which pictures you want to take to help your writing tell a story.

- Be a script writer. Take photographs or videos and write script to go with them.
- Be a reporter, a letter writer or add to a diary. Keep a journal. Write about your experiences on the trails in summer. Write labels and captions for photos you take. Will the writing help you remember what you did or saw if you read it many years later?
- Use your senses of touch and smell. What words describe what you feel or smell?
- Put on a pair of glasses that have only the frames. Look at the ordinary in an extraordinary way.
- Use a magnifying glass to observe things such as plants or small creatures close-up.
- Observe the same place at different times of day or over several days. Write about changes you see in light and shadows, growth, effects of weather or creatures.
- Make a list of animals you see on a summer day. Describe the trail from their point of view.
- Write about the people who helped to make Independence Day important. Write your own list of ways you could make a difference in your home, school, or community.

## **Reading**

- Learning to read through the use of trade books has become a way of wisely using learning time and resources.
- Before you walk a trail, think about what you might see or want to know. Do some background reading to get ready for your walk.
- As you walk the trail, think of stories or books you have read that remind you of what you see or experience.
- After a walk, look for new reading materials that give you more information about what you saw. Find books or stories written by others who had experiences like yours. Find folk or fanciful tales that have been used to “explain” events in nature.
- What local writers have described summer weather or summer activities in Taylor County? Read their materials and then write your own.

- Use a list of artifacts (Tools, ox yokes, etc.) that are named in the “Little House Books” by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Which ones were used at locations along the trail? Read the stories in the books to learn how Laura described them.
- Take field guides along on the trail. Find books at a library and read about the things that are happening in summertime. Find them in your own neighborhood. Use a search engine to read about specific topics you see on the trail or in your yard.
- Read about gardening in summer.

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