

# Life in the Dust Bowl: Journal Writing

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**Grade level:** 5th grade

**Objective:** Students will be able to research information on the Dust Bowl. They will write a journal entry acting as if they were a person who was part of the Dust Bowl and going through similar experiences that people went through at that time. Students will be able to write and illustrate their own hypothetical experiences going through the Dust Bowl that are inspired from their research.

## Standards:

IL.1 GOAL: Read with understanding and fluency.

IL.1.B.2b > Identify structure (e.g., description, compare/contrast, cause and effect, sequence) of nonfiction texts to improve comprehension.

IL.1.B.2c > Continuously check and clarify for understanding (e.g., in addition to previous skills, clarify terminology, seek additional information).

IL.1.C STANDARD: Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.

IL.1.C.2b > Make and support inferences and form interpretations about main themes and topics.

IL.1.C.2d > Summarize and make generalizations from content and relate to purpose and material.

IL.2 GOAL: Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras, and ideas.

IL.2.A STANDARD: Understand how literary elements and techniques are used to create meaning.

**Resources:** Stanley, J. (1992). *The Children of the dust bowl: The true story of the school at weedpatch camp*. New York: New York.

[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/dust/journal.html>

**Materials:**

computer

notebook journal

pencil

crayons

**Procedures:**

1. The teacher will begin by reading the book, *The Children of the dust bowl*.
2. Students will be paired up and look up information from the internet about the dust bowl.
3. After they are done researching, students will work individually to create a journal entry entitled "A Day in the Life of the Dust Bowl."
4. When the students are finished with their entry, they will go back with their partner and revise any mistakes.
5. The students will rewrite their entries, and then turn in their final copy to the teacher.

**Assessment:**

The teacher will assess the journal entry based on the information, accuracy, and creativity based off of the information that the student's have found about the Dust Bowl. They will also describe their own personal experiences in the assignment. The students will be graded on their group cooperation in helping with revising the paper.

**Reflection:**