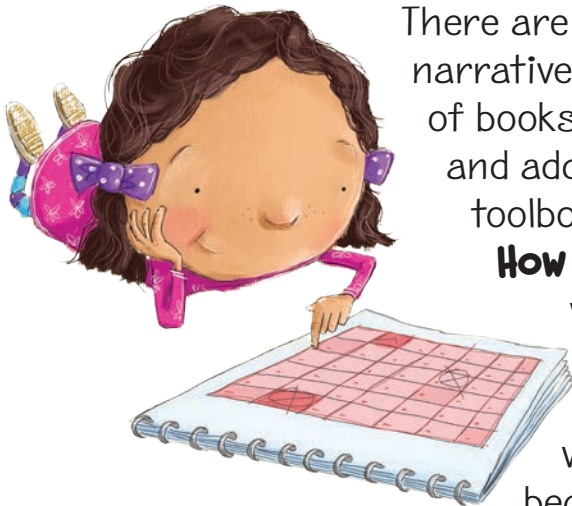


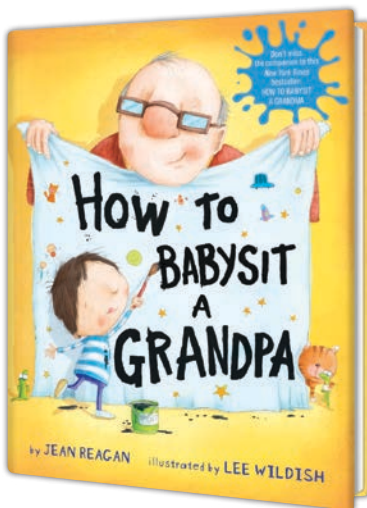
"How-to" procedural writing is easy— if you know how!

With Jean Reagan and Lee Wildish's **How To Series**

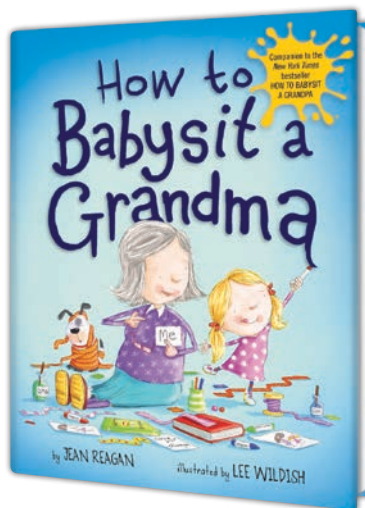


There are all different kinds of writing, from narrative to nonfiction. By reading a variety of books, students begin building writing skills and adding different genres to their writing toolbox. Jean Reagan and Lee Wildish's **How To** series introduces explanatory writing with humor, energy, and warmth. "How-to" writing is an important skill set. Students will use this writing tool as they begin encountering challenges such as

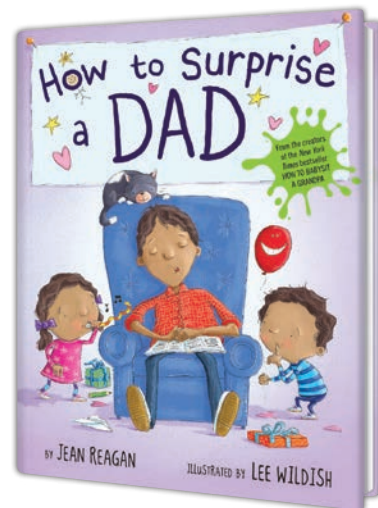
detailing process in lab reports and explaining their methods in solving mathematical word problems. Using **HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDPA**, **HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDMA**, and **HOW TO SURPRISE A DAD** as guides, teach young writers about the tone and style of how-to writing.



How to Babysit a Grandpa
by Jean Reagan;
illustrated by Lee Wildish
HC: 978-0-375-86713-2
GLB: 978-0-375-96713-9



How to Babysit a Grandma
by Jean Reagan;
illustrated by Lee Wildish
HC: 978-0-385-75384-5
GLB: 978-0-385-75385-2



How to Surprise a Dad
by Jean Reagan;
illustrated by Lee Wildish
HC: 978-0-553-49836-3
GLB: 978-0-553-49837-0

An exercise in "how-to" writing

Ask students to write instructions for your various classroom routines. One example might be "How do we gather for story time?" Copy the opposite page for students to use while writing their classroom routine instructions.

Ask students to consider these questions when putting together their how-to lists.

- This type of writing is instructional. How can I do a better job of making sure that the reader understands what I am trying to communicate?
- Is my writing clear and specific enough for my audience?
- How can I incorporate transitional words correctly (e.g., *first*, *next*, *then*, *last*)?
- How can I mirror the tone and style of other how-to books to make my list clear?



Art © 2015 by Lee Wildish from *How to Surprise a Dad*

Have students share their how-to lists with each other. Ask each student to follow the list and complete the described tasks in order to ensure the directions make sense. Ask for peer feedback so students can revise their lists to make directions easier to follow. When all of the lists are complete, staple them together for your own classroom how-to book.



Art © 2015 by Lee Wildish from *How to Surprise a Dad*



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.1.2:

Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.1.7:

Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of "how-to" books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.1:

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.2:

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Practice your "how-to" writing

Name: _____

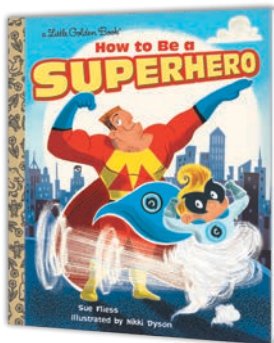
Instructions: Use the numbered lines below to write out directions for a classroom routine using these transitional words:

first • next • then • afterward • second
after • at last • finally • last

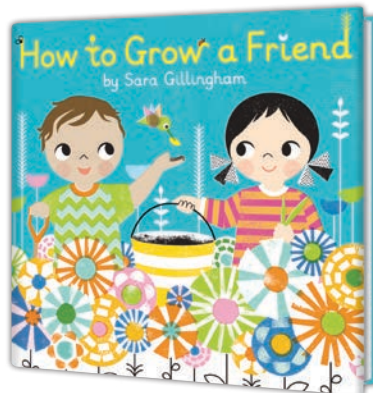
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

More "how-to" books for your classroom

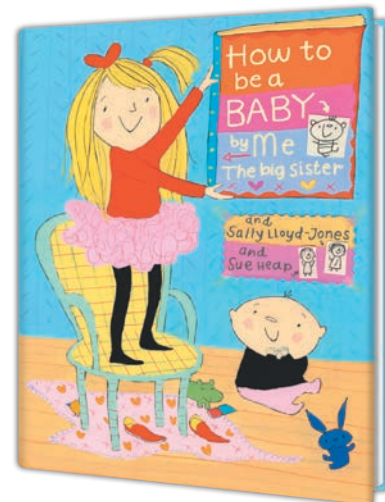
Use these how-to story-time reads to demonstrate the difference between narrative and instructional writing. Point out the use of transitional phrases, instructive tone, and informative content.



How to Be a Superhero
by Sue Fliess;
illustrated by Nikki Dyson
HC: 978-0-385-38737-8



How to Grow a Friend
by Sara Gillingham
HC: 978-0-385-37669-3
GLB: 978-0-375-97325-3



How to Be a Baby . . . by Me, the Big Sister
by Sally Lloyd-Jones;
illustrated by Sue Heap
HC: 978-0-375-83843-9



How to Get a Job . . . by Me, the Boss
by Sally Lloyd-Jones;
illustrated by Sue Heap
HC: 978-0-375-86664-7

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