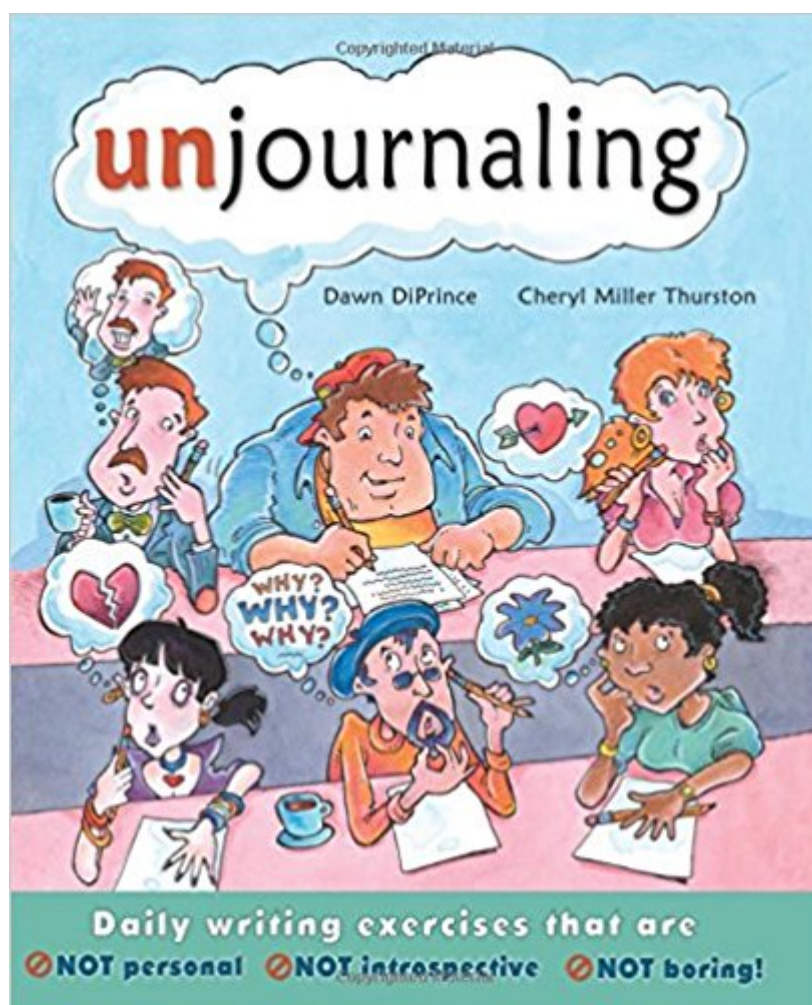


The book was found

# Unjournaling: Daily Writing Exercises That Are Not Personal, Not Introspective, Not Boring!



## Synopsis

Some people just don't want to share intimate details about their thoughts, feelings, and lives – at least not with others in a class or group. That's where UnJournaling comes in. All the writing prompts in this book are entirely impersonal but completely engaging – for both kids and adults. Just a couple of examples of the 200 writing prompts on widely varied topics: Write a paragraph about a girl named Dot, but use no letters with a dot (in other words, no i or j). Why on earth would Yankee Doodle stick a feather in his cap and call it "macaroni"? Come up with a plausible explanation. The book includes sample responses to all of the questions – a helpful tool for anyone who gets stuck with a topic and wants to see that it can be done!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 138 customer reviews

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#1482 in [Books > Arts & Photography](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Dawn DiPrince loves to teach writing. She has helped many people, from age 7 to 87, to become writers. She has taught poetry, journalism and other writing to middle school students at a local after-school program. Cheryl Miller Thurston is the president, founder and editor of Cottonwood Press, Inc., which she started in 1986 with a \$2000 loan from a friend. Before that she was an English teacher for 13 years, grades seven through university level.

I bought this for my 14 year old boy which sometimes has issues with writers block. This gives great

ideas without the cheesy self discover prompts. Very unique topics and he really enjoys writing daily using this. Highly recommend for kids who struggle with desire or topics to write about

I purchased a copy on a whim years ago and I'm so glad I did! I have used SO many of the topics in this book in everything from warm-up type assignments to major pieces to writing-based games to emergency sub plans. Many work well with no tweaking and others are a hit just by adding a minor twist of your own touch to the idea. The collection of topics are fun and funny, and it's a wonderful way to improve students' writing without getting into the nitty-gritty personal stuff that could be uncomfortable for all involved. I've used this with students as young as 5th grade and as old as 12th and had great success in all levels. Whenever one of my ELA friends is looking for a new text, this is the first that comes to mind as a recommendation.

This is a great little book. It is excellent for writers from the beginning advanced levels as even the advanced are allowed to stretch creativity and it is easy enough for beginners. Topics in here would be great for grades 5 and up, and with help even a 10 year old could write on these topics. An example from the first page is the use of words as definition in a new way. The word silly is "defined" by describing a actions of a person and then the actions of a dog. Then the writers is asked to define the term again using the same method. With younger writers, a good discussion would spark ideas and then then they could write. Overall this is an excellent book.

LOVE this for nonconventional journaling ideas!

When I used to teach (before taking time off to be a SAHM and full-time grad student), I spent quality time searching or thinking up creative writing prompts for journal writing in the classroom. Many of my students were uncomfortable with penning details of their lives, and I had to search for alternatives that would keep their interest and not bore them. Since I shall be returning to teaching soon, I decided to build my resources, and found this book. "Unjournaling" contains many creative writing prompts that are impersonal but highly engaging. The prompts also require a level of thinking which is excellent - for example, explaining the uses of an Ipod or latest gadget to one's great grandfather in the simplest terms (not very easy considering how used we are to tech-speak these days!), creating tongue twisters, dictionary diving, and many more. The prompts in here would be great for use as sponge activities, i.e. the period before transitioning into the actual lesson, for example, when students enter the classroom and the teacher needs to take care of some business

such as taking down attendance, and others. A recommended resource for LA teachers!

A wonderful collection of writing prompts for kids who don't necessarily want to get personal. Because of their nature, they provide lots of fodder for thought, discussion, and writing. I use this with my 3rd-6th grade creative writing class, leaving it out on the table for my kids to page through if they have trouble thinking of topics, but I could see it being very helpful for a regular elementary or middle school classroom as well.

Buy this book. Seriously!! Such great ideas! So much fun--even for my teenagers who LOATHE writing!!! Bought two--figuring I needed one for each of my kids. You really only need one book--it's a book of prompts, no space for entries. I love the book so much though--I'm keeping the second one. It would make a fantastic gift for any homeschooling parent! I can't give this book enough stars!!!

Unjournaling is a fun book that gives countless ideas for creative, wacky, and random journal topics. Some of my students don't feel comfortable writing about their personal experiences, but they DO feel comfortable about writing fun, goofy topics. Some also really enjoy the challenge of having to come up with a creative response to some of the prompts. For example, "Write a plausible explanation of why Yankee Doodle stuck a feather in his hat and called it macaroni" forces students to be creative with their stories whereas "Write a story about a girl named Dot without using any letters with dots: i or j" requires creativity and attention to details. Overall, this book was a great purchase for my classroom!

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