

## *Outdoor Writers Workshop*

**O**utdoor Writers Workshop® (OWW) helps teachers use their schoolyard or Outdoor Classroom to support writing instruction. OWW has been developed and piloted over the past four years by the Boston Schoolyard Initiative in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools (BPS) English Language Arts Department.

*“Writing outdoors opened up my students’ imaginations and gave them more to write about in all genres. They cared more about what they were writing.”*

*Outdoor Writers Workshop* helps classroom teachers expand the walls of their classroom by moving instruction outdoors. This new venue enhances instruction by fostering enthusiasm for writing that builds on the outdoor experience.

Students become motivated to write and develop observation skills that enhance vocabulary and build writing stamina. Students are instructed in the writing process and supported in crafting ideas and language to produce high quality writing.

**P**rofessional Development in-service courses are posted on [mylearningplan.com](http://mylearningplan.com) and include separate eight-week courses for teachers in grades K-2 and grades 3-5. *Outdoor Writers Workshop: an Introduction* helps teachers launch outdoor writing in their classroom, and advanced level courses help teachers use the outdoors to raise the craft in their students’ writing.

**C**urriculum materials provide guidance on “Launching Outdoor Writers Workshop,” “Using the Outdoors throughout the Writing Process,” “Living a Writerly Life” and units on specific genres including: expository writing; persuasive essays; poetry; letters; and fiction. Materials are available at [www.schoolyards.org](http://www.schoolyards.org) and at the ELA Department website currently posted under Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary Language Arts.





*I never hear them say they have nothing to write about when we're working outdoors.*

*The oral language outdoors is huge. Outside, they're interacting with each other through dialogue.*

*Two boys that I've never seen interacting indoors, were conferring outdoors. One was saying to the other "The teacher said not to put "I saw. ..I saw...I saw...".*

*Outdoors they were more independent. They required less teacher support and produced more high quality work.*

*My students want to keep their "seed notebook" all day and continuously write in them.*

*I have kids I have heard 10 words from all year who were using sentences to describe what they saw outdoors. Fantastic sentences.*

*Their focus was so much more refined outdoors, it gave more purpose to their writing.*

*My K0/K1 students included so much more detail in their drawings... even putting in strings of letters.*

*My students felt like they were really writers.*

What BPS  
teachers say  
about  
*Outdoor Writers  
Workshop*

