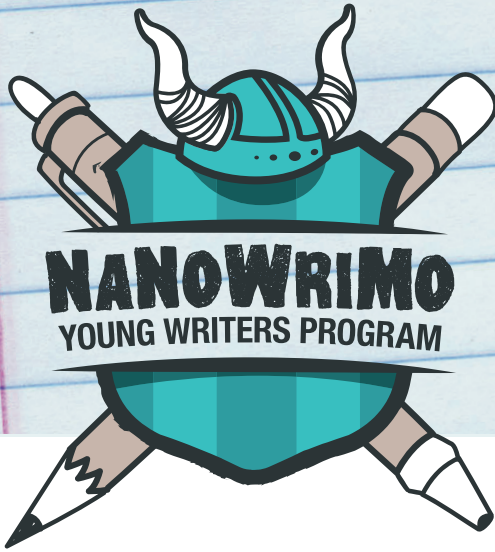


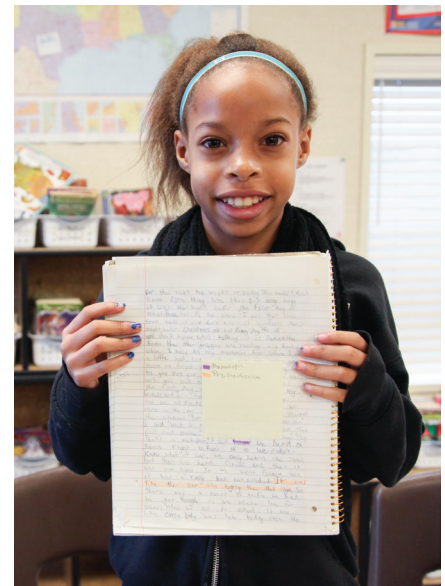
*100% Free and Awesome!*



# Building a New Generation of storytellers

**National Novel Writing Month, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Berkeley, California, believes that stories matter. Our Young Writers Program (YWP) is designed to help young people:**

- find value in their stories.
- become confident and proficient storytellers.
- realize their creative potential to build new worlds—on and off the page.



To achieve that, the program focuses on developing students' creative voices, writing fluency, resilience, and self-efficacy.

The Young Writers Program empowers K-12 students to write a novel in 30 days. It helps them set individualized and challenging word-count goals; provides them with tools to track their progress; and fosters an international, technology-savvy community that supports each writer's creative efforts year-round.

The program also empowers educators to support student skill development by providing Common Core-aligned curricula, online classroom management tools, and motivational classroom materials.



# Impact

Each year, **around 100,000 students and educators** in thousands of classrooms all over the world participate in the Young Writers Program.

**The impact on students is clear.** In response to a recent survey of Young Writers Program participants:

77%

said the program helped them write a story they cared about.

79%

said it made them excited about writing.

72%

said it helped improve their writing skills.

72%

said they learned what they can accomplish when they're determined.







# Online Resources

The Young Writers Program website provides educators and writers with virtual tools to write novels and reach creative goals throughout the year, as well as access to a supportive online community. Visit [ywp.nanowrimo.org](http://ywp.nanowrimo.org).

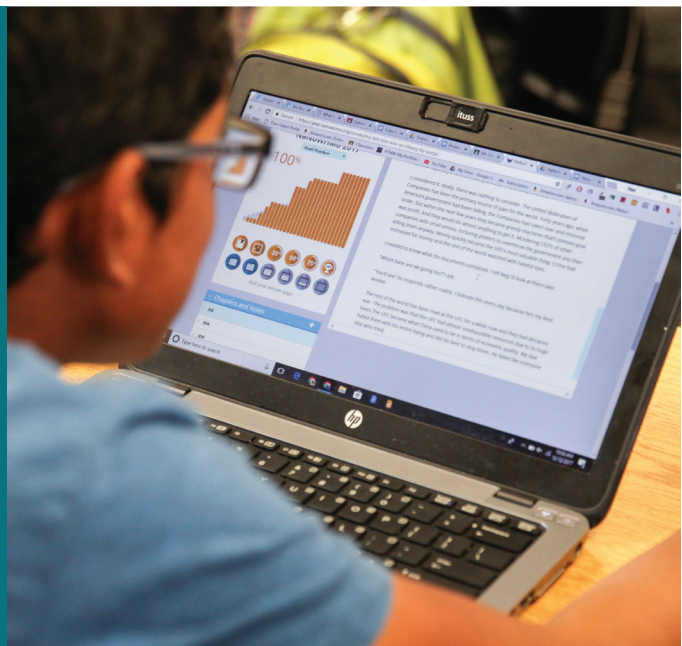
## Educators can...

- track individual and class progress.
- read and edit student novels, plus write their own.
- communicate with students via whole-class and individual messaging.
- connect with participating educators around the world.
- access our wealth of writing resources, including workbooks, lesson plans, and author pep talks.
- set classroom writing challenges year-round.



## Young writers can...

- set goals and track their progress with word-count tracking tools.
- write novels in a student-friendly writing space, complete with celebratory progress updates and other motivational tools.
- participate in our forums to share noveling struggles and discoveries.
- find guidance from author mentors who share lessons on writing and motivation.
- practice digital literacy in a safe, COPPA-compliant online space.







# More Resources

## Common Core-aligned Curricula

Our complete curricula guides classes through their novel-writing journey. It's free, accessible online, and fits within a balanced literacy structure. It includes:

- lesson plans, from prewriting to publishing.
- Common Core alignments.
- links to engaging exercises in our workbooks.
- a classroom timeline for National Novel Writing Month, with the most essential lessons and events.
- assessment guidance and a sample rubric for middle and high school.

Lower Elementary (K-2) Curriculum

Upper Elementary (3-5) Curriculum

Middle School (6-8) Curriculum

High School (9-12) Curriculum

## Workbooks

Our Young Novelist Workbooks guide writers through the entire noveling process. The activities inside help students create characters, settings, and plots, plus keep them motivated throughout the month.

## Classroom Kits

The Young Writers Program ships 2,500 free classroom kits to educators across North America and around the world. Kits help keep students energized and on track, and include progress-tracking posters, stickers, buttons, and Writer Emergency Packs (decks of ideas and prompts).

## Author Mentors

Every year, well-known authors write pep talks to provide advice and inspiration for YWP writers. Authors have included Walter Dean Myers, Veronica Roth, John Green, Sharon Flake, Lois Lowry, and Gene Luen Yang.







# Empowering Young Writers

In the last available writing assessment from the National Center for Education Statistics (2011), only 27% of 8th grade students in the United States performed at or above proficient levels. **The Young Writers Program believes that writing proficiency can be advanced in three ways:**

- **By valuing young people's unique stories.**

Young writers determine the genre, characters, and plots for their novels, and have freedom to tell the stories that mean the most to them. The process is relevant and authentic throughout, which leads to high student engagement and achievement.

- **By focusing on writing fluency first instead of writing ability.**

Young writers set their own goals based on word count rather than quality of their writing project. This lowers the barrier of entry for writing and helps students develop writing fluency—a necessary component of writing proficiency. Research shows that sustained, focused practice leads to skill development. Writing is no exception.

- **By developing writing self-efficacy.**

Young writers learn to set appropriately challenging goals, break difficult projects into manageable chunks, and celebrate daily achievements as steps towards goal completion. As a result, they develop growth mindsets related to their writing abilities.

Pep talks from professional authors further enforce the concept that writing is something that everyone struggles with together—and everyone is capable of.







# Testimonials

## Participating Young Writers

### Writing skills...

The Young Writers Program has given me the freedom to write on any subject of my personal choosing and has improved my writing and grammar skills. It has made a huge impact on my English classes and given me an advantage compared to others in those classes.

**Isaiah, 7th grade, Virginia**

### Creativity...

I am constantly thinking of story ideas for the next NaNoWriMo. The Young Writers Program has inspired me to let my imagination run wild, and I find myself more upbeat after writing. The YWP has also inspired me to take my life experiences and make them my characters. Then my characters' solutions become my solutions.

**Madeline, 6th grade, California**

### Resilience...

The first year I joined NaNoWriMo, I was inspired to actually finish a project. That year, I reached about three-quarters of my goal. That was more than I'd ever completed in one project. The Young Writers Program motivated me to continue on in my novel even when I didn't want to, and it taught me a lesson that I'm now teaching my younger sister.

**Alice, 7th grade, California**

### Agency...

I loved how you could just write. In most other programs, there was always a worksheet, or months and months of planning. I just loved writing my novel, *Xenoborg*, and was so inspired, I made a novel-writing club for my school!

**Anonymous, 5th grade, Indiana**

### Self-efficacy...

The Young Writers Program showed me that I could do whatever I want if I put my mind to it. I never thought I could write a novel. And YWP proved me wrong.

**Katharine, 7th grade, Illinois**

### Connection...

Before I was on the Young Writers Program website, my writing was nothing to speak of. And knowing that YWP is a safe community, I feel that I can make conversation, ask advice, and encourage other writers on the site.

**True, 7th grade, USA**





# Testimonials

## Participating Educators

### Education as a collaboration...

Students knew there were other people going through the same struggles, and feeling the same sense of pride in their work. Their teachers were also writing a novel. This wasn't just an assignment we were giving them; we were going on the journey by their side, and sharing our fears, struggles, successes, and failures.

**Daniel Stone, 6th grade educator,  
South Carolina, USA**

### Better thinkers and creators...

Some of [our students] struggle in English, as we're located in Kazakhstan, but I watched all of them grow and develop as writers, thinkers, and creators over the month... They're excited to do it again this year and engage further in developing their own stories about their world!

**Celia Emmelhainz, K-8 educator,  
Astana, Kazakhstan**

### Better readers...

From November on, I see new depth in their reading journal entries as they begin to read like writers, contemplating and evaluating what published authors have done in their work.

**Melody Sutton, 6th grade educator,  
California, USA**

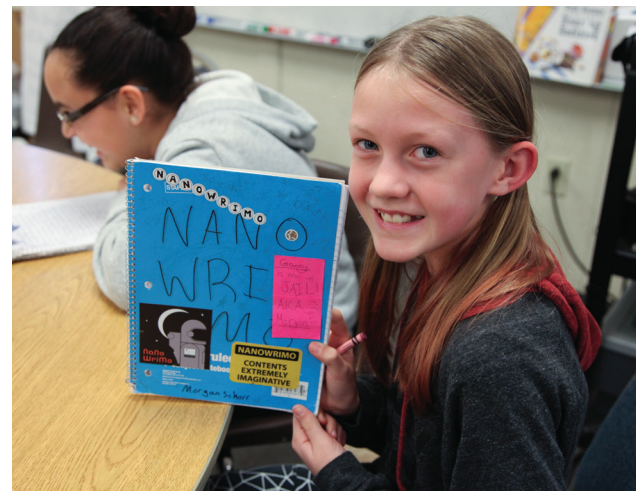
## Press

My English teacher opened a door for me to express my passion for writing this past year... Through this program, which had my entire class intrigued, we learned how to develop a plot, build character descriptions and foreshadow through writing our novels. It felt like we, the students, were in control, even though we were being guided by our teacher.

**"Room for Debate: A Passion for Learning Is Hard to Quantify,"  
*The New York Times***

To the students who participate, it is life changing... Two of our authors have gone on to self-publish their novels, and we have added their titles to our [school library] collection.

**"Rev Up for National Novel Writing Month," *School Library Journal***





# Join the creative movement!



**Visit:** [ywp.nanowrimo.org](http://ywp.nanowrimo.org)

**Email:** [ywp@nanowrimo.org](mailto:ywp@nanowrimo.org)

**Say hello:** @NaNoWriMo