National Author's Day

November 1st is National Author's Day. This activity shows that everyone can be an author no matter how small!

This activity addresses the following:

- Creative writing
- Social skills
- Choice making
- Cause and effect
- Fine motor

What you need:

Familiar short story (must contain a plot)
All-Turn-It® Spinner
Art supplies (paper, markers, scissors, My Art Spinner, etc.)
Blank book (found at a craft store – optional)
Scanner (optional)
Bookworm™
Jelly Bean™ switch
Pocket chart
Step-by-Step™
Whiteboard or chalkboard

Large pieces of paper (to be used as vocabulary cards and placed in pocket chart)
**Preparation:**

- Choose and record a familiar story to the Bookworm.
- Write the vocabulary words on large cards and place them in the pocket chart.
- Record the words and definitions to the Step-by-Step in the order they appear in the pocket chart.
- Character cards for the All-Turn-It Spinner (ex. boy, girl, cat, dog, fish, etc.)
- Setting cards for the All-Turn-It Spinner (ex. park, castle, the moon, underground, etc.)
- Plot cards for the All-Turn-It Spinner (ex. The main character loses something, the main character is in search of a treasure, etc.)
- Once published, record the story to the Bookworm so students can enjoy the story they wrote.

**What to do:**

1. Select a student to be a “Word Whiz” and have them activate the Step-by-Step. They will be responsible to tell the class the definitions of the new words.

2. Begin by choosing a story to read to the class using the Bookworm and encourage the other students to think about what the plot, characters, and setting are in the story.

3. When the story is over have the Word Whiz review the vocabulary, plot, characters, and setting from the story. Discuss these details.

4. When the plot, characters, and setting have been identified, review the words "author" and "illustrator." Discuss the author and illustrator of the story you read.

5. Now give the kids the opportunity to write their own story. Individually or as a class, have the students select a character, setting, and plot using the All-Turn-It Spinner.

6. Using the character, setting, and plot create a story.

7. Have students illustrate pictures for the story using various art supplies.

8. Put the pictures and story together to create the final book. Examples of how to do this:
   - cut and paste pictures and text together
   - scan the pictures onto the computer and use a word processor or publishing program to create the book (this will allow multiple copies to be made so everyone could take one home)
- scan the pictures onto the computer then create your book using a book publishing website found on the internet (walgreens.com, snapfish.com, lulu.com are some examples)

9. Once the final book is made, make sure you allow your class to see their work all come together in its final form by having a student read the story to the class.

**Script:**

“November 1st is National Author’s Day”

**Vocabulary Words**

“An Author is someone who writes a book or a piece of writing.”

“An Illustrator is someone who draws or creates pictures for things like books or magazines.”

“A setting is where or when a story takes place.”

“A character is someone in the story.”

“A plot is all of the things that happen in a story.”