

Name _____ Date _____

The Mechanics of Writing Titles

The Black Stallion
 Grammar: Writing Titles

A **title** is the name of a creative work. Writers indicate titles in certain ways. For longer works, such as books, movies, plays, or the names of newspapers or magazines, writers underline titles when they are writing them by hand. When these titles are printed, they appear in italics.

Book Title
The Girl Who Rode Like the Wind
Thinking Question

When writing by hand, how would you show that *The Girl Who Rode Like the Wind* is a book title?

1–8. Identify the titles in the following examples, and write them in the space provided.

1. Our local *Daily Recorder* had a story of a boy who raised horses. _____
2. Allen Verman wrote a book about his childhood pet entitled My Very Best Friend.

3. The movie about five castaways was called *Trapped on an Island*.

4. I learned a lot about animals from the movie Friends, Servants, and Saviors.

5. The film *My Pretty Pony* told the story of a young woman and her horse.

6. I read a fascinating book called *My Life on a Desert Island*.

7. My cousin appeared in a play called The Boy Who Loved to Ride.

8. Barn and Stable is my favorite magazine. _____

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A **title** is the name given to a creative work. Writers indicate titles in certain ways. The titles of shorter works, such as stories, articles, TV programs, or songs, appear in quotation marks.

TV Program Title
 "Animals on the Farm"

Thinking Question

*How would you show that **Animals on the Farm** is the name of a television program?*

1–5. Identify the titles in the following examples, and write them properly in the space provided.

- The article in the magazine was called Great Trail Adventures.

- Arnold wrote a song called Black Like Coal about his horse.

- The castaway passed the time by writing a poem called On This Island.

- His favorite program, Animal Adventures, ran on Saturday nights.

- The Animal That Saved Me was published in a collection of animal stories.

6–8. Decide if the following titles should be underlined or placed in quotation marks.

- The class read a fascinating book called What Animals Know

- Aisha recited the poem The Boy Who Loved to Ride.

- The article came from the magazine Adventure Stories.

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A **title** is the name given to a creative work. Writers follow special rules for capitalizing letters at the beginning of words in titles. The first and last words of a title always begin with a capital letter. Most other words begin with capital letters, too. However, articles, coordinating conjunctions, and short prepositions never begin with capital letters unless they are the first or last word of the title.

The Boy Who Ran for Gold and Glory

Thinking Question

How would you use capital letters in the title, the boy who ran for gold and glory?

1–5. Write the following titles using the proper capitalization.

- living on a desert island _____
- the girl who loved to ride in the hills _____
- racing against the wind and rain _____
- in the land of the tallest trees _____
- raising champion horses _____

6–8. Identify the titles in the sentences below, and write them using the proper capitalization and punctuation.

6. After I read the book partners in adventure, I wanted to get a horse.

7. The poem when the thunder cracks gave me the chills.

8. I read a short story about horses in the book tales of the wild west.

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Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

The Black Stallion
 Grammar: Spiral Review

A **preposition** is a word that shows relationships between other words in a sentence. Common prepositions include *above, after, at, during, for, through, in, on, of, to, with*.

1–5. Choose a preposition to complete each of the following sentences.

1. I would like to live ___ a farm.
2. He looked up and saw the birds _____ him.
3. The girl rode her horse ___ the driveway.
4. The castaway built a hut _____ encountering wild dogs.
5. The trainer worked _____ the horse.

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun.

6–10. Identify the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

6. I wanted to ride the horse around the track.

7. Eliza dreamed of the animals she would take care of during the summer.

8. Walter knew his cat's life would change after the accident.

9. The horse jumped over the barrier.

10. In the fall, he and his dog were happy.

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Connect to Writing

The titles of books, articles, and other works often appear in writing. The special rules for writing titles help readers know when an essay or research paper is referring to some other work.

The Black Stallion is an exciting and inspiring novel.

The Black Stallion

Grammar: Connect to Writing

Activity If the sentence is incorrect, rewrite it correctly. If it is correct, write correct on the line.

- The book *The Boy and His Horse* is a powerful tale of adventure. _____
- When Tina sings Go to sleep, Baby, it calms the horse.

- The article "Tips for Training Horses" explains horse behavior. _____
- Elvin Ramirez starred in the play Stranded at Sea.

- The movie "The Long Trail over the Mountains" features an amazing horse race.

- An article in the *Daily Examiner*, our local paper, told this story. _____
- In *galloping in the galaxy*, the poet expresses the freedom he feels on his horse.

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 20
READER'S NOTEBOOK**The Black Stallion**

Writing: Narrative Writing

Focus Trait: Conventions

Strengthening Voice

Weak Voice	Strong Voice with concrete words, sensory details, and dialogue
I was frightened but also drawn to the horse.	The great size of the shining, snorting beast thrilled—and frightened—me. “It may be the last thing I ever do,” I thought as I drew near the animal. “But it will be the greatest thing I ever do.”

Read the following weak sentences. Rewrite them to develop a stronger voice. Include concrete words, sensory details, and dialogue. Pay attention to quotation marks and other punctuation.

1. The horse did not want me to ride him. He threw me off.

2. It was fun to ride the horse. He ran very fast.

3. The horse seemed happy that I was in charge. It was calm.
