

Frequently Asked Questions

Writers in Residence™ Series from Apologia

Who is the author?

Debra Bell is the best-selling author of *Readers in Residence™*, *Writers in Residence™*, volumes 1 and 2, the award-winning *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens*, and the *Ultimate Homeschool Planners* for moms, teens, and students. She has taught composition and literature to students of all ages for over 30 years and AP English to high schoolers for over a decade. Debra holds a B.S. in communications education, an M.A. in English, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University.

What grades does this curriculum cover?

Writers in Residence™, volume 1, *Apprentice* is designed for grades 4 and up.

Writers in Residence™, volume 2, *Journeyman* is designed for grades 5-8. However, students as young as fourth grade may find it beneficial. It may also be a resource for older students who have not had a systematic writing program, but keep in mind that this course is not designed to provide high school credit.

What comes with the curriculum?

Each volume of *Writers in Residence™* includes the All-in-One Student Text and Workbook and a separate Answer Key with answers, tools for evaluating your child's writing, and more. The All-in-One Student Text and Workbook is a spiral bound, consumable resource. The conversational style, engaging visual layout, and step-by-step instruction makes it easy to use for both moms and kids!

Is grammar included in all of the volumes of *Writers in Residence™*?

Yes, the books in the *Writers in Residence™* series cover composition, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

What makes *Writers in Residence™* unique?

Writers in Residence™ takes the mystery out of writing. Everything needed to complete the course is included in the All-In-One Student Text and Workbook and the Answer Key. The curriculum casts a vision for God's eternal purposes bestowed upon our children through His gift of language and His gift of creativity. Inside the All-in-One Student Text and Workbook you will find:

- Text written to the student in an engaging style
- Lesson plans for four days a week for thirty-two weeks
- Many helpful, colorful charts and infographics that keep students engaged
- A rubric for every writing assignment that takes the guesswork out of evaluating your child's writing
- Compelling interviews with favorite Christian authors. Each volume contains highlights different authors.

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How do I know if I should start with volume 1 or volume 2?

In the beginning of volume 2 there are guidelines to help determine if your child is ready to start with volume 2 or should complete volume 1. There are review icons in volume 2 to show students what is a review from volume 1. The editors tried to make it stand alone. However, they did have to assume some common knowledge and common skill. Just like math, writing is a skill.

How is *Writers in Residence™*, volume 2 different from *Writers In Residence™*, volume 1?

There are several differences between each volume. volume 2 reinforces the skills presented in volume 1 and adds to them. The assignments are different, and students are introduced to new topics such as research writing, plagiarism, and MLA formatting and citation. Research writing includes learning how to use the library and learning how to safely navigate the internet.

Writers in Residence™, volume 2, *Journeyman* covers critical writing components such as composition, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Four of the most common writing styles are used to develop your child's ability to communicate: investigative, academic, poetry, and fantastical. The skills to be obtained are expressed in the unit titles: I Investigate, I Think, I Remember, and I Imagine.

What is special about *Writers In Residence™*, volume 2?

Writers In Residence™, volume 2 builds upon the skills introduced in *Writers In Residence™*, volume 1, *Apprentice* and introduces the very important research writing skills of argument and essay. Debra Bell was inspired to write this curriculum because, in her 30 years of teaching experience, she could not find any resources that broke these complex concepts down in a way that helped students understand how to build an effective argument for a research paper. Her own lesson plans were used to write this book.

The creative writing sections, including Poetry and Fantasy, are designed to highlight creativity as a gift from God. They are designed to help kids develop their creativity and writing so that they can communicate their Christian faith to others. *Writers in Residence™* is infused with a Christian worldview, and a Christian rationale for writing is explored more fully in volume 2.

The author interviews are a popular feature of volume 1. Are they also a feature in volume 2?

Yes, four new Christian author interviews are included: Sherri Seligson, author of Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology*, 2nd Edition, and *Internship for High School Credit* (Apologia); Phil Vischer, creator of Veggie Tales; Andrew Peterson, songwriter and author of Christian fantasy; and Christian fiction writer Jenny Cote.

Can I use *Writers in Residence™* with multiple grades in my home school?

You can use *Writers in Residence™* with several different children at multiple grade levels at the same time. Be sure to adjust your expectations for each child accordingly. You can start the program when your student is able to read chapter books independently.

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How much time will my student need to invest in this course?

Your student will need to dedicate an average of 45 minutes to an hour per day, four days a week, for 32 weeks. There are some lessons that require writing a draft, and these lessons take more time.

What assessment tools are available?

There are many tools included to help parents evaluate the student's work. Checklists, rubrics, unit reviews, and final reviews are included, as well as step-by-step exercises with answers to enhance the learning experience.

What distinguishes *Writers in Residence™* from other curriculum?

Writers in Residence™ focuses on capturing the child's unique God-given voice at this time. It does not use formulaic writing, but instead focuses on the child's unique expression of his or her own ideas and experiences.

Why were selected topics chosen to be covered in this series?

Authentic writing assignments were chosen because they are the types of writing kids need to be comfortable with to be college-ready, as well as accomplished and effective communicators throughout life. The types of writing chosen are meaningful and interesting to the student while providing an opportunity to practice skills necessary for the transition into an adult world.

Does my child need supervision?

No, the curriculum is designed to encourage student independence. When assistance is needed, the book instructs the student to get a parent. For example, if an internet search is required, the student is instructed to ask a parent or teacher for help.

How much prep time is required for the teacher?

Writers in Residence™ requires very little prep time for the teacher. There is a detailed, day-by-day lesson plan provided in the introduction of the All-in-One Student Text and Workbook, as well as helpful ideas for how to make it work for your family. The introduction also includes Debra's philosophy of writing, the six traits of good writing, and much, much more.

My high school student struggles with writing. Can we use the *Writers in Residence™* curriculum as a high school language arts credit?

Writers in Residence™ is not designed for high school credit. However, many students have not had a systematic writing program and need additional support. As the parent, you can choose to use this as an additional supplement to your high school curriculum to narrow the gap and strengthen your student's writing skills.

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Can *Writers in Residence™* be used in a co-op setting?

Writers in Residence™ was designed to work seamlessly with co-ops and writing groups. The suggested daily schedule lists assignments for four days per week. The fifth day of the week can then be used for a co-op day or writing group. There students can share their drafts and final versions with others, and adult leaders can provide further instruction and feedback based upon the various rubrics and checklists provide in the curriculum.

Where can I purchase *Writers in Residence™*?

When it is available, you can purchase it at [Apologia.com](https://www.apologia.com).