VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP

WEEK THREE: CONNECT

Create a Sharing Journal

For Grades 3-5

Journal writing is a great way to connect with your thoughts, and can be a great way to connect with other people! Create a journal that you can share with someone else in order to share your feelings, hopes, and dreams!

What Will You Learn?

- Self-expression through writing and drawing
- How others may think about different things

Materials:

- Paper - several sheets (no more than five)
- Writing/coloring utensils of your choice - pencils, markers, crayons
- Stapler OR string/yarn with hole punch

Instructions:

- Gather all your materials.
- Take your paper and fold them in half.
- If using a STAPLER, now is the time to staple the folded sides together.
- If using STRING/YARN, use a hole punch OR sharp pencil to punch holes on folded sides and weave string/yarn through all the holes and tie off.
- Your book is ready! Take time to write or draw whatever you want to. It doesn't have to fill up the whole book the first time you write or draw - it can be a page or two.
- If you need ideas of what to write or draw about, here are some things to get you started:
  - Do you have a favorite food, book, school subject, or something else? Write about why you like it!
  - What do you think about how you are learning this year compared to when you could see everyone in person?
  - Have you done any fun activities with your friends or family in the past year?
Try writing or drawing with the hand you don't normally use!

- After writing whatever you want, think of someone to share with this - parent, sibling, other family member, a friend that lives close by, whoever you want.
- There are two ways you could go from here.
  - Just show your person the things you wrote or draw on your pages.
  - Write back and forth with your person. You start it by writing or drawing on a few pages, then pass it to your person who then writes or draws on their pages and passes the book back to you.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What did you learn about yourself and someone else?
- Was it hard to think of something to write about? Why?
- Was it hard to think of someone to share with? Why?

**Explanation:**

Writing and drawing are two forms of expression. Everyone has their own voice, so getting to write or draw them out helps you express what you have to say. Sharing these expressions can help you connect with yourself and with others.

**More to Explore at the Library:**

Interested in even more? We have an online Pandemic Diaries you can read. You can also check out lots of great books, like How to Write a Journal by Cecilia Minden and Kate Roth, Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up written by Melissa Thomson and illustrated by Frank Morrison, and Cat Diaries: Secret Writings of the MEOW Society by Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffy and Laurie Myers, illustrated by Erik Brooks.

Guide created by Katie Loucks.