



---

## Unit 2 – Boxes and Bullets

In this unit your child will feel what it is like to write a whole essay. The focus is on teaching a few key qualities of this kind of writing with an emphasis on structure and elaboration. The unit begins with the writing of a simple essay as a class. Then, the transition is made to independent writing. As the unit progresses, your child will learn ways to organize and support his or her evidence. He or she will learn how to use an “introduction” to engage the reader and a “conclusion” to provide final thinking.

### Skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Writing long about ideas
- Using mentor texts as models
- Developing a thesis statements
- Organizing evidence in various ways
- Using transition words
- Using a checklist to self-assess and set goals to revise

You can support your child at home by having conversations about his or her thesis and the evidence that might prove this thesis. Having debates about the pros and cons of a topic and addressing a counterpoint will help your child understand and rehearse the format of essay writing in a fun and engaging way at home.