

P E N N Y L E A R N I N G L I T E R A T U R E

Penny Marches Through the Writing Process

A story about the writing process, plan, draft, revise, edit,
publish

Book Fourteen • The Writing Process Drill Song

Penny sat at her desk with her recess essay spread around her. Notes, drafts, and editing marks covered the table like autumn leaves. Champ rested his chin on her shoe. Penny sighed. “There are so many pieces,” she said. “I know each part, but I cannot see the whole.” Her shoulders felt heavy.

Mrs. Ray knelt beside her. “You have been building something, Penny. Every piece has a place.” She tapped the paper. “The writing process is a march. We do not skip steps. We take them one by one,” she said. “You already know the beat.”

Penny frowned. “A march?” Mrs. Ray smiled. “A writing process drill. Plan, draft, revise, edit, publish. Step by step, write it right.” She clapped a steady beat. Champ thumped his tail.

“First, plan,” Mrs. Ray said. “You chose your topic and your big idea. Recess is important. You listed reasons and picked the strongest ones.” Penny nodded. Her plan page looked like a map.

“Next, draft,” Mrs. Ray said. “You let your ideas flow onto the page. You did not stop for every little mistake.” Penny remembered filling her notebook. Her words had raced like Champ in the yard.

“Then revise,” Mrs. Ray said. “You made your ideas stronger. You used R-E-A-D.” Penny recited, “Rearrange, Exchange, Add, Delete.” She had rearranged sentences so they flowed, exchanged weak words for stronger ones, added an example, and deleted a repeated thought.

“After that, edit,” Mrs. Ray said. “You cleaned up mistakes. You used E-D-I-T.” Penny checked each line for capitals, punctuation, spelling, and clear sentences. Her red pencil had been busy.

“Finally, publish,” Mrs. Ray said. “You share your writing with readers.” Penny looked at her essay. It was not a pile of pieces anymore. It was a path from one idea to the next.

Penny stood up. She marched around her desk. “Plan!” she said. Step. “Draft!” Step. “Revise!” Step. “Edit!” Step. “Publish!” She laughed. Champ marched behind her, tail high.

Mrs. Ray gave her a clean sheet. Penny wrote her final title at the top: “Why Recess Is Important.” She copied her thesis and reasons in order. She smoothed each sentence like a soldier smoothing a uniform.

When she finished, Penny read her essay aloud to Mrs. Ray. Her voice grew strong. “Recess gives students a break, helps them focus, and builds friendships.” Mrs. Ray clapped. “You followed the process, Penny. Every step led here.”

Penny held her published essay. She thought of her plan, her draft, her revisions, and her edits. They were not separate chores. They were one march. She could almost hear the beat.

Writers ready? WRITERS READY! Brains
switched on? BRAINS SWITCHED ON! Step
by step! WRITE IT RIGHT! Left! Left!
Writing process! STEP BY STEP!

Now Penny knew the writing process was always with her. Plan, draft, revise, edit, publish. Each step made the next one easier. When a new writing task appears, you can march through it too, one steady step at a time. Your words can march into the world, one strong step at a time.