

## WRITING TITLES-ACTIVITIES

1. Talk titles. Gather a stack of books and discuss their titles. What do the titles tell you about the books? Which do you like the best? The least? Why? Are any titles mysterious? Any misleading? Do any titles serve a double purpose (i.e. “Wild” in *Wild Child* can refer to an active, out-of-control child as well as a “nature” child)?

2. The teacher or a fellow classmate should read aloud a picture book that the class is not familiar with, but **NO GIVING AWAY THE TITLE**. Hide the cover of the book with a book cover or inside a file folder. No showing the inside title page—nothing to give away the title. After the class hears the story, students should guess a title for the book. Were you right or not? Was the author’s title the best title or was one the class generated better? Try again with other books.

3. Brainstorm and write titles—you might even keep a page for title ideas in your idea notebook. Don’t worry about writing stories for the titles—just try coming up with titles that would grab a reader’s interest. Here are a few of Lynn Plourde’s to get you thinking:

The Cold That Grew—ACHOO!  
The World’s UNscariest Witch  
Wrong Way Wayne  
Dodo Birds Don’t  
Bedtime, Dreadtime

4. Look at some of your older stories. Do their titles work—why or why not? Can you think of better titles for any of them? Why is your new title better than your old title?