document & develop:

fragments ♣ observations ♦ experiences ♥ memories ♠

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# Sketch, Reflect, and Ponder:

### Maintaining a Writer's Notebook/Sketchbook/Design Book

## Language Arts 7—Kaye

Exactly what’s this about? Part ethnographic study, part personal journal/diary, part sketchbook where you explore, experiment, and demonstrate your evolving literacy through mixed-media journaling.

The world is your subject of inquiry and your sketchbook is the place where you record initial reactions, develop opinions, and inventory topics and issues that resonate and occupy your thoughts.

All of the varied intricacies, nuances, and nooks & crannies life has to offer are subject to your interpretation, analysis, and review. Your sketchbook is the place where you will collect, channel your inspiration, and cultivate your creativity. You will chart your evolution as an artist through the testimony of your journaling experience.

Through a combination of written text and graphic mixed media, your sketchbook/design book will uniquely represent you. One expectation to always keep in mind: your sketchbook should be anything but generic. This is the place you experiment & take chances & develop ideas & refine strategies. Remember: knowledge is power and words are currency.

Consider incorporating and exploring:

* original and intriguing found photography
* drawings, sketches, illustrations, and animations
* journaling that reveals your thoughts, insights, interests, beliefs and values
* creative writing (prose & poetry)
* topical essays
* memoir & personal narrative
* responses to developing current events
* collected media artifacts (ads, headlines, articles)

# For the most part, you’ll have a great deal of freedom and flexibility in what you explore and how you go about conveying your thoughts and experiences. Helpful strategies and techniques will be modeled through mini-lessons and the participation of common exercises. Additionally, for those who need structure and increased support, prompts will be provided.

# Below is a sampling of common topics we’ll initially explore together:

Fav 5 (The Hot List)

# Pet Peaves

Personal Goals

My Dream

Safe Place

Consumption/Consumer

People Watching

Found Sounds

The Language of Trees

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Together as a class, we’ll read excerpts from *How To Be An Explorer of The World*, written by Keri Smith. Professional samples of writer’s notebooks will be shared, explored, and discussed in class. It’s important that we model and learn how real people use their design/sketchbooks as an important tool of the creative process. Advertising teams, film makers (screenwriters, directors, location scouts, animators, and editors), musicians/lyricists, and physical medium artists—basically anyone involved in design, structure, and function: we’ll check out how they develop and refine their ideas. Every artist has their own unique process, and this process rarely remains static; art evolves as creatives change and break new ground.

Eventually, students will pitch their ideas to the class for editorial feedback, critique, and constructive criticism. Praise, suggestions, and questions from the panel of student-writer peers provide authors with creative insight and valuable access into the mind of their collective audience.