

Blank Canvas Heart Map

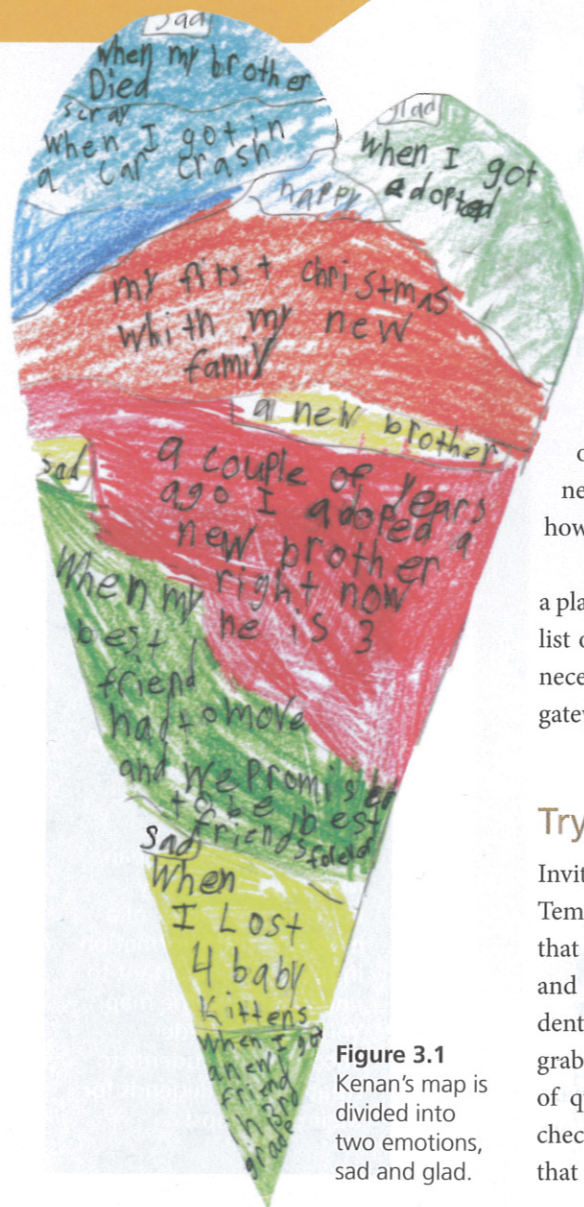


Figure 3.1
Kenan's map is divided into two emotions, sad and glad.

1

Blank Canvas Heart Map

Introduction

When I paint, I stand in front of my canvas and my heart beats with the anticipation of how I'm going to fill it with color and light. An empty canvas means possibilities and a little bit of mystery. As I dip my brush into the paint, I never know exactly how the painting will turn out, how the light will change, what the colors will be.

This first heart map is like a blank canvas. It's a place to explore, play, and meander. I've included a list of possibilities as well as questions that are not necessarily meant to be answered, but to serve as gateways for mapping your heart.

Try This

Invite writers to use the Blank Canvas Heart Map Template to map things, people, and experiences that matter to them. This heart map is open-ended and invites writers to play and explore. Your students' hearts might be so full that they may want to grab a larger piece of paper to fit everything. The list of questions on the heart map template is not a checklist. Writers can read through and find ideas that speak to them.

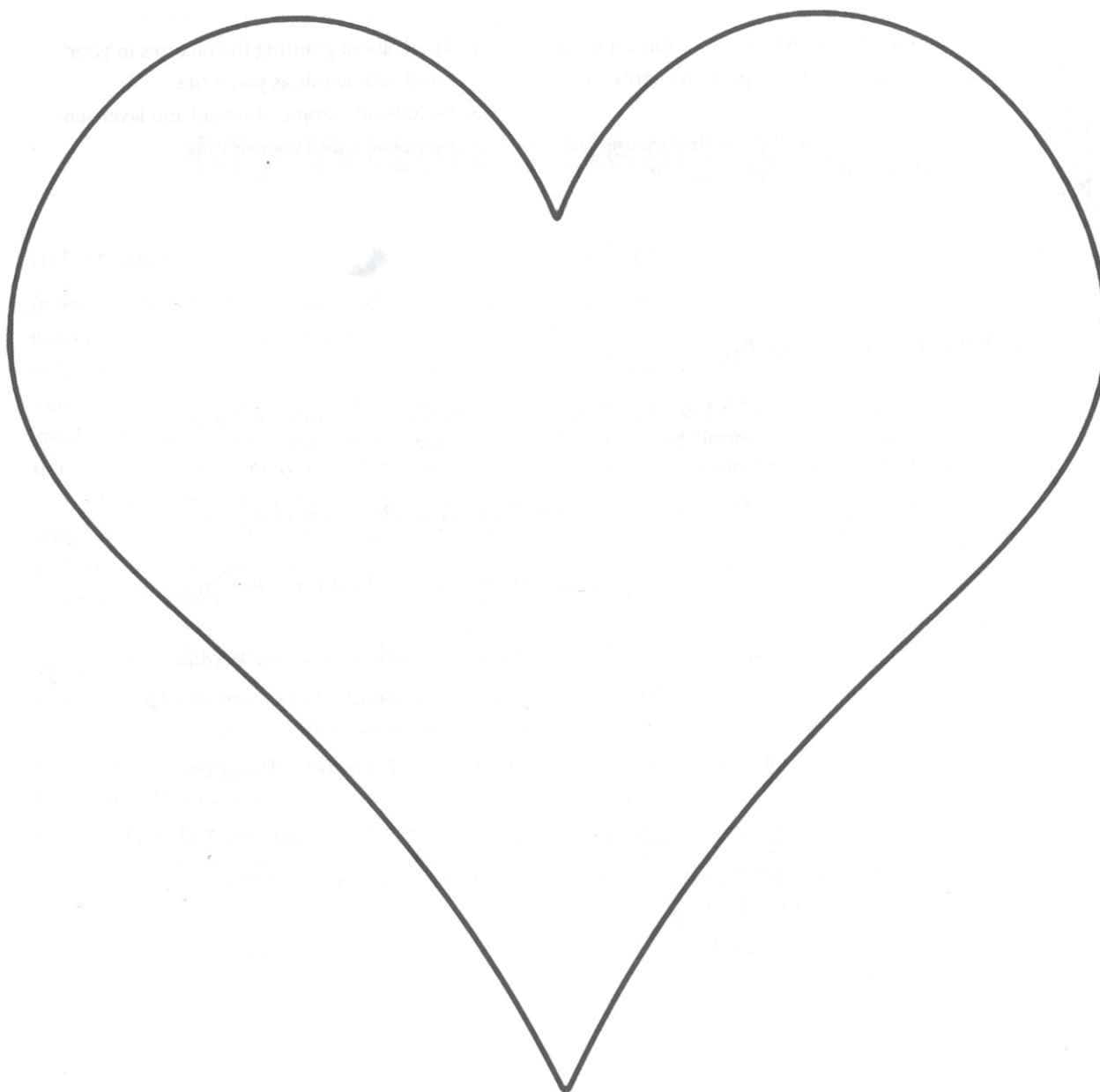
Writing Ideas

This heart map supports writing in all genres. Students can follow these steps to get started:

1. Choose one item on your heart map that catches your heart and write it down in a writer's notebook or on a separate sheet of paper.



Figure 3.2 Nico's heart map is a jigsaw puzzle with puzzle pieces for categories such as *Journeys*, *Dreams* and *Comforts*, and so on.



Blank Canvas Heart Map Template

- What memories and feelings have you stored in your heart?
- What memories, people, and experiences have made you who you are today?
- What people have been important to you?
- What places have been important to you, and what memories do these places hold for you?
- What are some experiences or central events that you will never forget?
- What happy or sad memories do you have?
- What makes your heart sing?
- What secrets have you kept in your heart? (You don't have to share the secret; find a metaphor to explain it instead.)
- What small things or objects are important to you—for example, a tree in your backyard, a trophy, a stuffed animal?
- What do you want to tell others about yourself?
- What are the important things about your
 - ☐ feelings?
 - ☐ talents?
 - ☐ likes and dislikes?
 - ☐ challenges?
- What is unique about you?

Here are some additional ideas to consider when heart mapping:

- your future
- your life history
- your wishes and dreams
- an idea you've had
- what you are grateful for.

Name: _____

Date: _____

May be photocopied for classroom use. © Copyright 2016 by Georgia Heard from Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft Authentic Writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

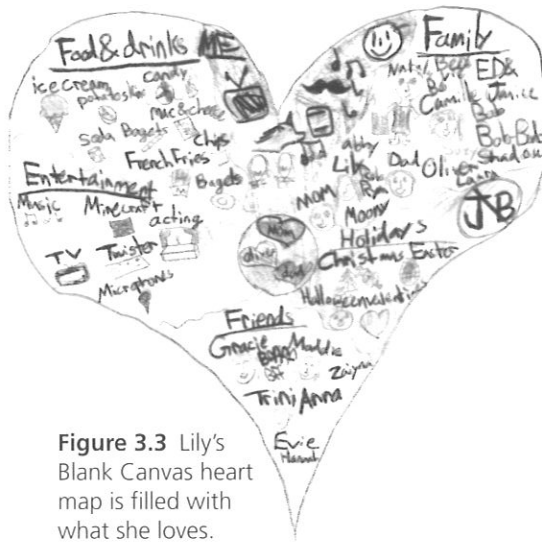


Figure 3.3 Lily's Blank Canvas heart map is filled with what she loves.

2. Ask yourself, "What genre does this topic beg to be written in? Poem; personal narrative; essay; memoir . . . ?"
3. Begin exploring the topic by freewriting any thoughts, images, and feelings.
4. Think about painting the pictures in your mind with words as you write.
5. Periodically, stop and reread and layer sensory details into your writing.

Mentor Texts

- Bruce, Mary. "‘One Today’: Full Text of Richard Blanco Inaugural Poem." ABC News. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/today-richard-blanco-poem-read-barack-obama-inauguration/story?id=18274653>. (4+)
- Blanco, Richard. 2015. *One Today*. New York: Little Brown Books for Young Readers. (Preschool–3)
- Cummings, E. E. 2014. *I Carry Your Heart with Me*. Petaluma, CA: Cameron. (Preschool–K)
- Dotlich, Rebecca Kai. 2016. *The Knowing Book*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills. (K+)
- Johnson, Georgia Douglas. 1918. "The Heart of a Woman" in *The Heart of a Woman and Other Poems*. Boston: The Cornhill Company. (8)
- Kalman, Maira. 2009. *The Principles of Uncertainty*. New York: Penguin Books. (10+)
- Laux, Dorianne. 2000. "Heart" in *Smoke*. Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, Ltd. (9+)
- Strand, Mark. 2007. "The Coming of Light." In *New Selected Poems*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. (9+)
- Witek, Jo. 2014. *In My Heart: A Book of Feelings*. New York: Harry N. Abrams. (Preschool–1)

Small Moment Heart Maps

Introduction

A small moment is a freeze-frame instant stored in our memories that we then stretch out into a longer story. Small moments are like snowflakes—tiny and unique—and over time they accumulate to make a blanket of white.

Author Lee Martin (2015) writes:

If I had it to do over again, I'd tell the younger writer I was [that] if he can't make something out of the small and intimate, he'll never be able to make anything out of something large and distant.

Here are a few examples of my small moments. As I write, I like to remember this wise writing advice: "The bigger the idea, the smaller you write."

- Not the entire two weeks of summer spent at my grandparents' house, but when my sisters and I played mah-jongg with my ninety-year-old grandmother every evening, hearing the clicking of the mah-jongg tiles—bamboos, characters, and circles—before my grandmother proclaimed her nightly win: *Mah-jongg!*

- Not all the years growing up in Alexandria, Virginia, but the icy, snow-packed igloo my sister and I built during the blizzard of '68 and how we pretended we were Inuit living inside, protected as the snow fell heavily outside.
- Not all twenty years of living in New York City, but the maple tree outside my apartment window—its first buds breaking open in March, bringing hope after a cold, long winter.

When I write personal narrative, poetry, or memoir, I stretch these small moments out and slow time down minute by minute. Then I ask myself, "What larger meaning do these small moments have?"

Try This

Small moment writing is often geared towards our youngest writers but focusing on small moments can be useful to writers of all ages. Writers can use one of two small moment heart map templates to map out small moment ideas from their hearts. The first is for brainstorming multiple small moment memories and stories. Invite writers to think of things that have happened to them—something true in their lives, an

everyday event, memories, true stories from their lives—and draw and write those moments on the small hearts in Small Moment Heart Map Version 1.

The second, Small Moment Heart Map Version 2, is for mapping out one small moment in detail, zooming in and stretching out a small moment using sensory details.

Writing Ideas

This heart map works best to support small moment writing, personal narrative, and poetry. Provide students some prompts like the following.

If you completed the first type of small moment heart map:

- Read over all the entries from your map and select one that resonates for you emotionally, catches your heart, or gives you an image in

your mind. You can then complete the second small moment heart map to zoom in on details and stretch the moment into a longer story. You can also begin by writing this entry, and as you write, include more sensory details.

- Look over the entries on your map and ask, “How might these entries connect with one another?” Is there a statement you could make to connect them? Then write about these connections.

If you completed the second type of small moment heart map:

- Read over the details on your heart map and decide where you might begin your story or poem. Then begin writing, weaving in heart map entries as you write.
- Try writing a poem from the sensory details on your heart map.

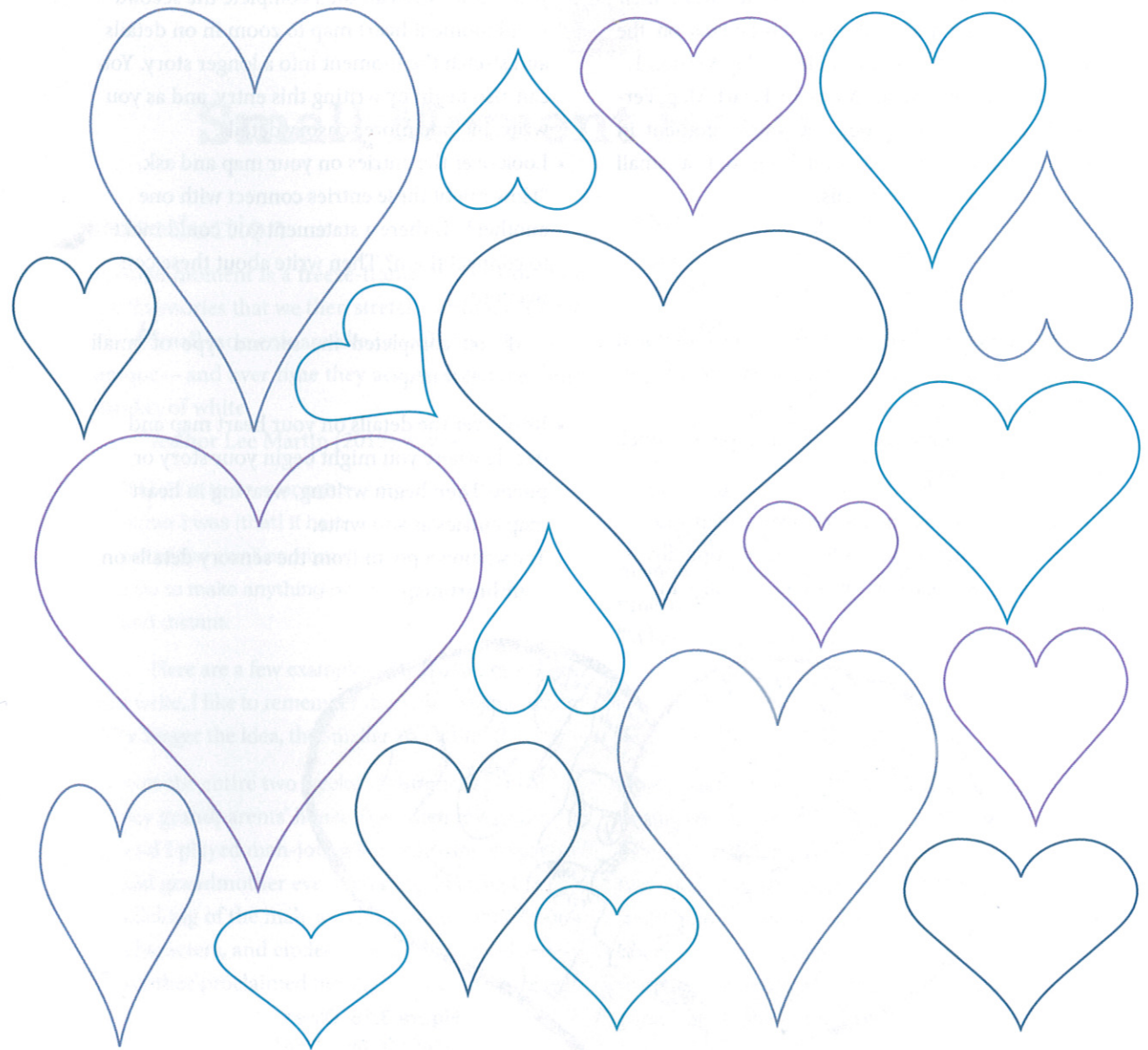


Figure 3.16 Olive's Small Moment heart map (version 1)

Small Moment Heart Map
Template Version 1:
Multiple Small Moments

Include some of the following:

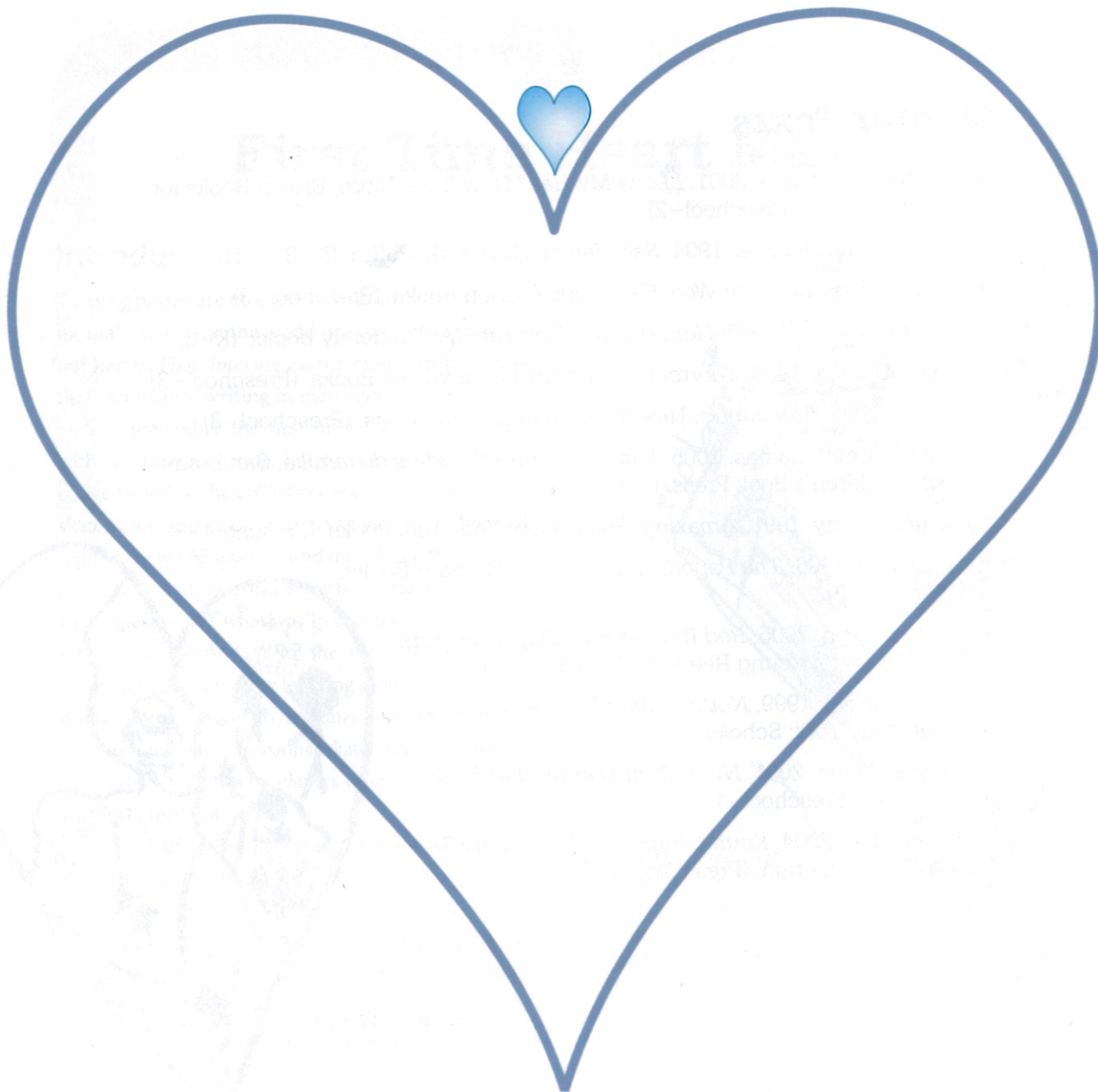
- things that have happened to you
- something true in your life
- an every day event
- memories
- true stories from your life.



Name: _____

Date: _____

May be photocopied for classroom use. © Copyright 2016 by
Georgia Heard from Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft
Authentic Writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.



Small Moment Heart Map Template Version 2:

A Focus on One Moment

Write the small moment in the center of your heart map and then explore questions and ideas such as these:

- Zoom in and stretch out your small moment using tiny details.
- Make a picture in your mind of the small moment and write the picture using your words.
- Describe sensory details such as what you hear (sounds and voices), what you see, or any memories of touch.
- What do you really want to say?
- Why is this small moment meaningful to you and how do you feel when you think of the small moment?

Name: _____

Date: _____

May be photocopied for classroom use. © Copyright 2016 by
Georgia Heard from Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft
Authentic Writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

My Pet or Favorite Animal Heart Map

Introduction

Animals have been the inspiration for stories and poems for centuries because they stay in our hearts like friends and family do.

My dog, Pupster, is ten years old now and feels like an old friend. Here is a short piece I wrote about him when he was a puppy:

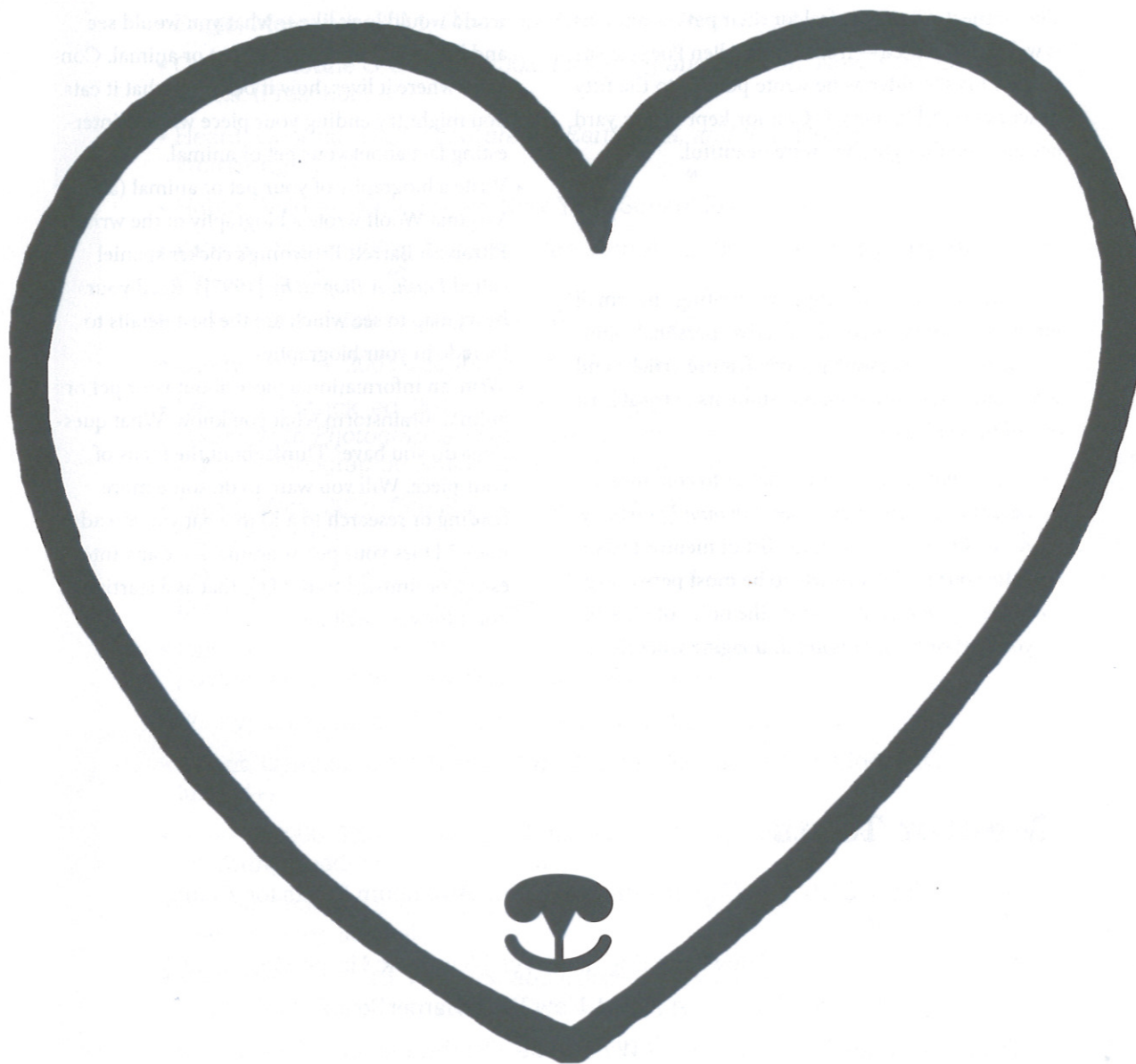
He gallops, ears back, free as the wind like he's Lassie except smaller than a ferret, covered with bristle brown fur, shaggy hair covering his eyes, his tail more like Wilbur the pig than a dog's. Passersby always say, "He's so ugly!" and, "He looks like Yoda or a gremlin!" But everyone agrees on one thing: he's adorable. A rescue dog. Rescued as a pup, and woven into his personality: loyalty, love, and a lick for everyone.

Try This

Students can use the My Pet or Favorite Animal Heart Map Template to map the memories, feelings, and connection they have with either a pet or a favorite animal. This template could be an emotional map of how they feel about a pet or animal to inspire their writing in narrative or a poem, or contain facts and information to guide nonfiction writing.



Figure 3.29 Madison, a second grader in Margaret Simon's class, created a heart map about her cat Pancake.



My Pet or Favorite Animal Heart Map Template

Use the My Pet or Favorite Animal Heart Map Template and draw a picture or write the name of your pet or favorite animal in the center of your heart. For a pet heart map, you might include some of the following:

- the story of how you got your pet or when you first saw her
- how you feel about your pet and what he means to you
- a description of what he looks like
- habits or rituals
- adorableness or loveable traits
- favorite foods
- where she likes to sleep
- treasures: favorite toys, places to go, and so on
- what he does during the day
- what she likes to play.

For a favorite animal heart map, you might include some of the following:

- why it's your favorite animal
- where and when you first saw it
- what traits make it your favorite
- a drawing or description of any stories about or a mental picture of your animal
- information or facts about your animal
- questions you have.

Name: _____

Date: _____

May be photocopied for classroom use. © Copyright 2016 by Georgia Heard from Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft Authentic Writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

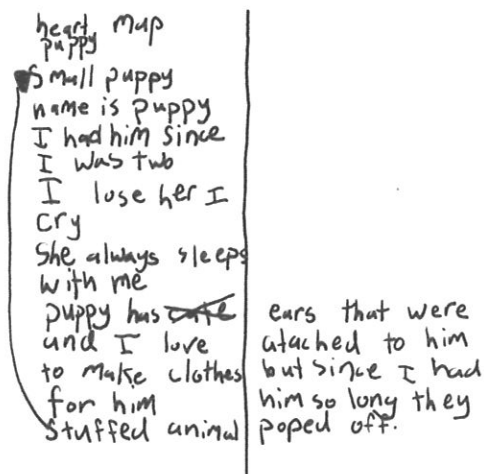


Figure 3.30 Sophia didn't have a pet, so she made a heart map about her stuffed animal puppy and then drafted a list poem.

The connection writers feel for their pets or animals is well documented — from Edgar Allen Poe's cat sitting on his shoulder as he wrote poems, to the fifty peacocks that Flannery O'Connor kept in her yard because she thought they were beautiful.

Writing Ideas

This heart map can support writing in small moment writing; personal narrative; personal, opinion, or persuasive essay; poetry; feature article; and informational nonfiction. Ask students to try at least one of these ideas:

- Write a persuasive essay or letter to convince a parent to get you a pet. (See *I Wanna Iguana*, by Karen Orloff [2004], in the list of mentor texts.) State your reasons clearly to be most persuasive.
- Write a poem or story from the point of view of your pet or favorite animal. Imagine what the

world would look like — what you would see and hear — if you were your pet or animal. Consider where it lives, how it behaves, what it eats. You might try ending your piece with an interesting fact about your pet or animal.

- Write a biography of your pet or animal (author Virginia Woolf wrote a biography of the writer Elizabeth Barrett Browning's cocker spaniel called *Flush: A Biography* [1997]). Read your heart map to see which are the best details to include in your biography.
- Write an informational piece about your pet or animal. Brainstorm what you know. What questions do you have? Think about the focus of your piece. Will you want to do some more reading or research to add to what you already know? Does your pet or animal have any interesting or unusual traits? Use that as a starting point for your writing.

Mentor Texts

- Appelt, Kathi. 2010. *The Underneath*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. (5–9)
- Creech, Sharon. 2001. *Love That Dog: A Novel*. New York: HarperCollins. (3–7)
- ———. 2010. *Hate That Cat: A Novel*. New York: HarperCollins. (3–7)
- DiCamillo, Kate. 2015. *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick. (4–7)

- Engle, Margarita. 2014. *Mountain Dog*. New York: Square Fish. (3–7)
- George, Kristine O'Connell. 2002. *Little Dog and Duncan*. New York: Clarion Books. (Preschool–3)
- Heard, Georgia. 1997. *Creatures of Earth, Sea, and Sky*. Honesdale, PA: WordSong: (1–4)
- Hobbs, Valerie. 2009. *Sheep*. New York: Square Fish. (3–7)
- Kalman, Maira. 2003. *What Pete Ate from A–Z*. New York: Puffin Books. (Preschool–2)
- ———. 2015. *Beloved Dog*. New York: Penguin. (3+)
- Leedy, Loreen. 2003. *Mapping Penny's World*. New York: Square Fish. (K–3)
- Lewis, J. Patrick, ed. 2012. *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!* Washington, DC: National Geographic Children's Books. (Preschool–3)
- Oliver, Mary. 2015. *Dog Songs: Poems*. New York: Penguin Books. (High school+)
- Orloff, Karen Kaufman. 2004. *I Wanna Iguana*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers. (Preschool–3)
- Paschkis, Julie. 2015. *Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems/Aleteo y zumbido: poemas de animals*. New York: Henry Holt. (K–4)
- Pennypacker, Sara. 2016. *Pax*. New York: Balzer and Bray. (4–7)
- Rylant, Cynthia. 1988. *Every Living Thing*. Columbus, OH: Modern Curriculum. (4+)
- ———. 2000. *The Old Woman Who Named Things*. New York: HMH Books for Young Readers. (Preschool–3)
- Thorne, Pete. 2015. *Old Faithful: Dogs of a Certain Age*. New York: Harper Design. (High school)
- Wardlaw, Lee. 2015. *Won Ton and Chopstick: A Cat and Dog Tale Told in Haiku*. New York: Henry Holt. (Preschool–3)

Special Place Heart Map

Introduction

If you closed your eyes and listened to how I described my special places to you, I hope you'd be able to smell the fishy Virginia creek next to my childhood house, or hear the loons echoing across Kusumpee Pond near my family's home in New Hampshire, or see the golden-rowed cornfields on Scuttle Hole Lane as the sun set on Long Island. We become who we are in some ways because of the details of our landscape, the places we come to know growing up. Writers' words are infused with the particulars of place.

Special places...

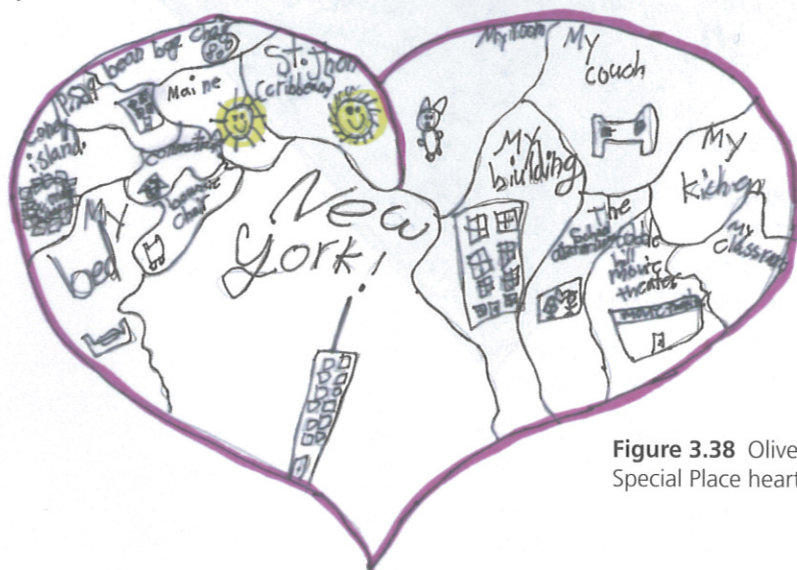


Figure 3.38 Olive's
Special Place heart map

Try This

On the Special Place Heart Map Template, invite writers to map the special places in their lives that they know and love intimately. The places we know shape us, and their details stay in our memories. As writers map their special places, encourage them to write their close observations and small specifics to tap into later as they write.

Writing Ideas

The Special Place heart map can support writing personal narrative, memoir, essay, feature article, opinion essay, and poetry. Ask your students to respond to one of these ideas:

- After you select a special place from your heart map, continue to make a mental movie in your mind using all your senses to write a personal narrative, memoir, or essay about your special place.
- Write a poem about a special place on your heart map, focusing on the senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, and sound) or highlighting just one sense through the whole poem.



Special Place Heart Map Template

Begin by mapping several special places, or start with memories of one place. Here are some ideas to include on the heart map:

- a special place you like to explore or play in near your home
- a place where you lived when you were younger
- a special vacation spot
- a place where your grandparents or other relatives live
- a place you've seen that is beautiful and awe-inspiring
- a quiet place where you go to be by yourself to think.

To guide your writing, try the following:

- Ask yourself, "Why is this place special to me?"
- Ask, "What memories do I have of this place?"
- Close your eyes and make a mental movie of your place. Write and/or draw what you see, smell, touch, taste, and hear.

Name: _____

Date: _____

May be photocopied for classroom use. © Copyright 2016 by Georgia Heard from Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft Authentic Writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

