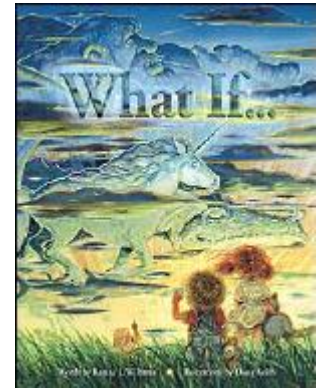


At the Northern Nevada Writing Project's 2009 Piñon Poetry Festival, students of many ages were inspired to write *What If... poems* after hearing Regina Williams' picture book What If...

Student poets worked hard on their *word choice* and their *idea development* as they composed these poems, then published them before the festival ended.

Look over these poems and talk with a partner about where you see each poet's strength with the writing traits of *word choice* and *idea development*. Be prepared to share with the whole class.

The lesson that inspired this writing can be accessed at the WritingFix website (<http://writingfix.com>).



Skateboards

by Taylor, fourth grade poet

What if skateboards cha-cha'd
During a rock and roll song
While you're inside watching television?

What if skateboards grew arms, and between each
Minute, they jumped off ramps, then flew away?

What if skateboards built skate parks around the house,
Making up cool tricks off into deep holes,
Flying back into the air until they land,
Breaking in half?

What if skateboards could swim deep into the ocean--
As long as they touch the bottom--
Then ride the sea floor, going back up to land
As they rot on the way home?

Skateboards help me experience something new
Like a trick or a better way to exercise.



Writers...

by Hunter, fourth grade poet

What if rabbits quickly danced while having a wine party,
And jumped from the sound of my pen,
As soon as they chugged wine?

What if horses ate mayonnaise soufflé,
Quickly meeting the rabbits,
Until the horses chugged wine?

What if pigs, scared by the mayonnaise and wine,
Happily ate ice cream
While the rabbits loudly menaced.

What if geese, amazed by the strangeness,
Asked the writer to change it,
Even if the geese were wrong about the decision,
And the writer said, "NO!"

And what if the writer never put imagination,
Creativity, or freedom into this poem...
And if the geese won the fortune of others...
What if, oh, what if?

