This bibliography lists sources on writing that are appropriate for 6th to 8th graders and that are available from the Dordt College Library. These texts deal with subjects from basic elements such as grammar and subject choice to more advanced topics such as tone, metaphors, and the responsibilities of the writer. Forms covered include writing essays, short stories, novels, plays, news and sports writing, poetry, screenplays, travel pieces, memoirs, biographies, and much more.

**Fiction**


how to use implication, characterization, passage of time, and dialogue. See especially chapter 1 on the goals and purposes of short stories.


Journalism/Media


Nonfiction


Dahlstrom, Lorraine M. Writing Down the Days: 365 Creative Journaling Ideas for Young People. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 1990. PE1408 .D126. A teacher’s tool, but very useful for students who are looking for topics on which to write. Most of the book is a calendar with a writing topic for each day. Includes the birthdays of
Sherlock Holmes and Elvis, information on Julius Caesar, the Iditarod, the invention of Coca-Cola, the Garfield comic strip, and more.


**Collective Texts**


biographies, and devotionals. The first three chapters are an especially interesting look at writing theory.


Mueller, Lavonne, and Jerry D. Reynolds. Creative Writing Forms and Techniques. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company, 1990. PE1408 .M727. A more advanced text, arranged by genre, dealing with the basics of teaching yourself to write. Includes sections on writer’s journals, poetry, journalism, fiction, plays, and short stories. Also chapters on more specific elements, such as dialogue, theater staging, techniques for
getting started with your writing, and preparing a manuscript for publication. See especially pp. 176-183 on writing science fiction.


**Plays and Screenplays**


Hall, Roger A. Writing Your First Play. Boston, London: Focal Press, 1991. PN1661.H28. A basic introduction to play writing. Deals with creating dialogue that advances the plot, how to work your own experiences in life into a play, and how to know where to start the story. Includes simple exercises and examples. Thorough and easy to understand.
