

FUN FRIDAY: The Note

Source: [Tennessee Association for the Gifted – TAG](#), Facebook, October 2, 2026

“They found the missing page.”

Good news for one person. Bad news for another.

That’s the starting point for this creative writing challenge. Everyone gets the SAME note. Their job is to build a story in which both reactions make sense.

Start with a partner. Before anyone writes a story, decide:

- What is the missing page, and what does it reveal?
- Who is relieved that it’s been found? Why?
- Who is worried? What do they stand to lose?

Then build a consequence chain together:

The note is read → One character takes action → The other responds → That response creates a complication → Someone faces a difficult choice.

The important part: Each action should give someone a reason to do what comes next. Ask, “Because this happened, what does the other character do?”

For example, the missing page might be from the original script for the school play. It proves that Maya wrote a scene Ben submitted as his own.

Maya wants to show the page to the director. Ben asks her to keep quiet and promises to give her credit. But Maya wants him to explain why her name was missing in the first place. Ben refuses because he could lose his lead role. Now Maya has a choice: accept the writing credit quietly or show the director the evidence and risk their friendship.

One discovery has become a problem neither character can solve without giving something up.

Once partners have planned their chain, each student writes their own version. They can choose whose perspective to follow, what the characters say, what the reader knows, and how the difficult choice is resolved. For a short session, focus on one scene.

Keep the note the same for this first round. That shared starting point makes the differences worth noticing. One pair might imagine a diary page. Another might imagine a recipe, a will, or the final page of a treasure map. Even partners working from the same plan can write very different scenes.

When students share, ask:

What did this writer imagine that you hadn't considered? Which detail made both characters' reactions make sense?

For gifted learners, the challenge is making several pieces work together: the same information, opposing motivations, and actions that have believable consequences. An unexpected twist still has to make sense.

Ready for an extension? Have students write their own mysterious notes in ten words or fewer and trade. Or add another constraint: One character must hide their reaction. Let dialogue and actions give the reader clues.

One note. Two readers. Very different reactions.