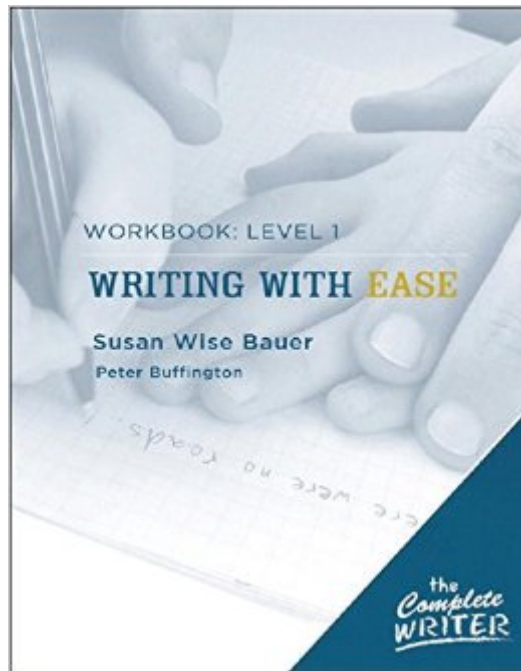


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# The Complete Writer: Level 1 Workbook For Writing With Ease (The Complete Writer)



## Synopsis

A workbook to accompany the acclaimed series on teaching writing, from the author of *The Well-Trained Mind*. In *Writing with Ease*, Susan Wise Bauer lays out an alternative plan for teaching writing, one that combines the best elements of old-fashioned writing instruction with innovative new educational methods. The *Complete Writer* workbooks (each sold separately) complement this plan with lessons, student worksheets, and teacher instructions for every day of writing instruction. Each covers one year of study. Used along with *Writing with Ease*, *The Complete Writer, Level One* (first in a four-volume set) complete the elementary-grade writing curriculum.

## Book Information

Series: *The Complete Writer*

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Curriculum & Lesson Plans > Curricula](#) #46 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Language Arts](#) #50 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Homeschooling](#)

## Customer Reviews

I like Susan Wise Bauer's curricula in general, and I want to like this workbook. I love the copywork and narration, and it is helpful to have the scope and sequence laid out. BUT... it frustrates me.1. The literature selections are from wonderful works, but lose 99% of their value when taken OUT OF CONTEXT. For example, *Little House in the Big Woods* is a great book. But when you read one random paragraph, and copy the sentence "There were no roads." from it....it loses the effect. It might as well be any random sentence made up by a workbook author. If you are using *Little House* as a read-aloud, it works well to do copywork from it. But my child isn't familiar with the book, so the literary benefit is lost when he reads and copies a miniscule excerpt. I would rather do this same concept but USE THE BOOKS THAT I READ ALOUD for source material.2. The samples to copy

are printed in the midst of white space. For first grade level, it would be helpful to have it written as a HANDWRITING SAMPLE, ON LINES. I am using Handwriting Without Tears, which uses a different type of lined paper, so I am having him write on that instead of in the workbook anyway. But most people use three-lined paper, and that's what is provided for the student to write on. It would make more sense to have the example written on lines as well, so it works better as handwriting practice. It's confusing to be told "copy this" when it actually looks different from what he is expected to produce; there is an unnecessary mental step of translation that he must do to translate "book font" to "handwriting on lines." Eliminating that step would allow him to focus on the content of what he's writing, which is the goal.

I am a homeschooling mom using this workbook with a 2nd grader. I listened to Susan Wise Bauer speak at convention last year and was thrilled with her writing methodology. At the beginning of this school year I purchased "The Complete Writer: Writing With Ease: Strong Fundamentals", which explains her program. She provides guidelines for narration and copywork material, allowing the homeschooling parent to select material of interest to the student. This book can be used as a stand-alone product for several years of instruction. However, I found myself falling behind on selecting material for my son. Halfway through the school year I went ahead and purchased "The Complete Writer: Level 1 Workbook for Writing With Ease" to accompany "The Complete Writer: Writing With Ease: Strong Fundamentals." I'm so glad I did. This workbook provides narration and copywork material for each day of instruction. For each day of copywork, there is a student page with two sentences to choose from (to match student ability). The narration material is usually something I would not have thought interesting to my son, but he loves it. He remembers the narration passages, and likes to re-read them just for enjoyment. Each day's work is a simple, manageable bite, yet I am already seeing results in just three weeks of consistently using this workbook. Consistency is the key - and that was what I lacked when I tried finding my own material to accompany "The Complete Writer". Having the accompanying workbook with its daily lessons laid out has been worth every penny. It would have been ideal to start this workbook when my son was in 1st grade. However, I'm glad we went ahead and started with Level 1, even though my son is in 2nd grade.

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