

USING KIDSPIRATION®

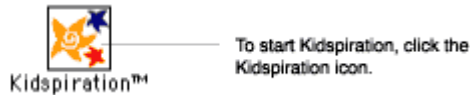
Overview of Kidspiration

Kidspiration is the visual learning tool for K-3 students. It helps students create stories, organize and categorize information, understand concepts, and express and share their thoughts.

Picture view makes it easy for kids to see their ideas and information, taking advantage of the principles of visual learning. Writing view integrates with Picture view to help kids connect their ideas with words.

K-3 students use Kidspiration to:

1. Brainstorm ideas with words and pictures.
2. Organize and categorize information visually.
3. Create stories and descriptions using engaging visual tools.
4. Explore new ideas with thought webs and visual diagrams.



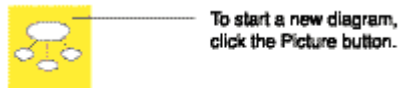
Windows

Click the Start button, point to Programs, and then click Kidspiration. The Kidspiration Starter opens.

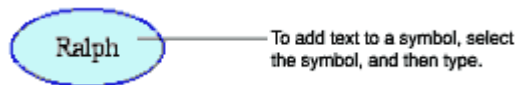
The Kidspiration Starter is where you can start new projects, open existing projects, and use the many different Kidspiration activities.

Start a new diagram

1. To start a new diagram, click the Picture button.

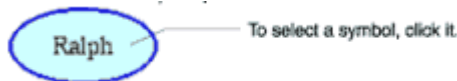


2. The First Idea provides a starting point for your work. Let's create a simple character map about Ralph, the main character in Beverly Cleary's book, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. In the First Idea symbol, type **Ralph**. Your diagram should look like this:

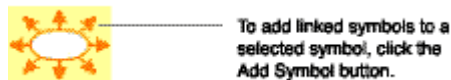


Add symbols to your diagram

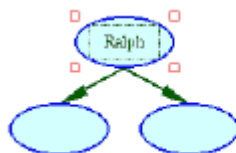
1. Click the *Ralph* symbol to select it.



2. To add two symbols that are connected to the Ralph symbol, click the Add Symbol button twice.



Now, your diagram should look like this:

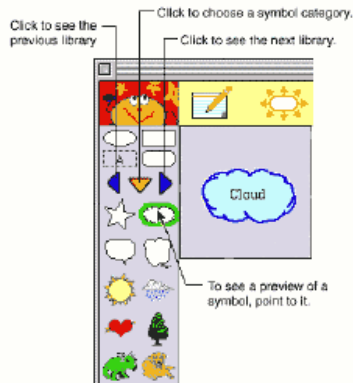






- Click one of the new symbols to select it, and then type the word **loves**.
- Click the other symbol to select it and then type the word **fears**.
Your diagram should look like this:



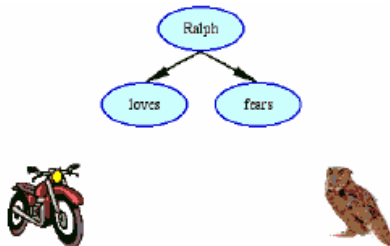
Use the symbol palette

Now, let's use the Symbol palette to add more symbols to your diagram. The Symbol palette has hundreds of symbols that kids can use to show their ideas



- On the Symbol palette, click the Pick Library button , and then click Animals and Plants.
- Click the Next Library button  until you see the owl symbol, and then drag the owl symbol onto your diagram near fears.
- On the Symbol palette, click the Pick Library button , and then click Everyday.
- Click the Next Library button  you see the symbol library that has the motorcycle symbol.
- Drag the *motorcycle* symbol onto your diagram near loves.

Now, your diagram looks something like this:



Connect symbols using links

Now we are going to use a link to connect the *fears* symbol to the *owl* symbol. And, we are going to connect the *loves* symbol to the *motorcycle* symbol.

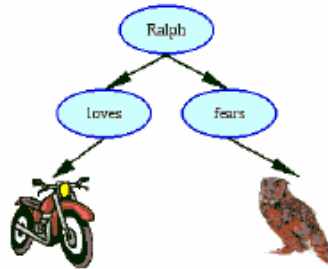
- Click the *fears* symbol to select it.
- Click the Link Symbols button to turn it on.



To link symbols in a diagram, click the Link symbol button.

3. Click the *owl* symbol to create a link to it.
4. Click the *loves* symbol to select it.
5. Click the *motorcycle* symbol to create a link to it.
6. Click the Link Symbols button to turn it off.

Now, your diagram looks like this:



Listen to the ideas in your diagram

You can use the computer to read the ideas in your diagram.

1. To turn on the Listen tool, click the Listen button.



To listen to the ideas in your diagram, click the Listen button.

2. To hear the computer read an idea in your diagram, click the fears symbol.
3. Now, click the *loves* symbol to read the word.
4. To turn off the Listen tool, click the Listen button again.

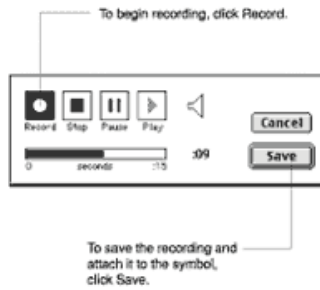
Record your own words or sounds


To support emerging readers, Kidspiration allows students to record words or sounds and attach them to a symbol. Let's record a sentence and attach it to the *motorcycle* symbol.

1. Click the *motorcycle* symbol to select it.
2. On the Sound menu, click Record.



3. To begin recording, click the Record button.

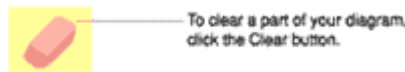


4. Say **Ralph rides his motorcycle in the hallways**. When you are finished recording the sound, click Save.
5. To play the recording, click the speaker  in the upper right corner of the motorcycle symbol.

Clear part of your diagram

Here's a quick way to clear a part of your diagram.

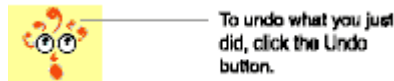
1. Drag the *car* symbol onto your diagram from the Transportation library. It will be selected.
2. To erase the symbol, click the Clear button.



Fix a mistake

It's easy to fix something you didn't mean to do.

To undo what you just did, click the **Undo** button.



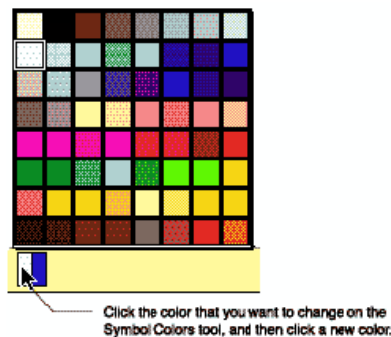
Change the look of symbols using color

You can use color to customize the look of your symbols. You can change the colors of two-color symbols and multicolor symbols. Let's change the colors of the *fears* symbol, and then change the colors of the *motorcycle* symbol.

1. Click the *fears* symbol to select it.

The Symbol Colors tool appears on the Formatting toolbar.

2. On the Symbol Colors tool, click the color that you want to change, and then click a new color on the color menu.



3. Click the *motorcycle* symbol to select it.

You can change any color that appears in a multicolor symbol.

4. On the Symbol Colors tool, click the color that you want to change, and then click a new color on the color menu.

Switch to Writing view

While you've been working in Picture view, Kidspiration has been building a written project using the ideas in your diagram.

To view your diagram in Writing view, click the Go to Writing button.



To view your picture in Writing view, click the Go to Writing button.

In Writing view, the ideas in your diagram are organized from top to bottom with your first idea - *Ralph* - at the top.



The *owl* and *motorcycle* words have been added automatically by the Picture-to-Topic option, which helps emerging readers and writers make connections between symbols and words. Sounds recorded in Picture view are also available in Writing view.

Add an idea

Now add an idea to your writing project.

1. Click the *fears* idea to select it.
2. To add the new idea, click the Add Idea button.



To add a new idea to a writing project, click the Add Idea button.

3. Type the word **vacuum cleaner** in the new idea.


This is what your project looks like now:



Move an idea

Now we want to move the *vacuum cleaner* idea so it is alongside the *owl* idea underneath *fears*.

Drag the *vacuum cleaner* idea so it is located below *fears* and at the same level as the *owl* idea.

To move an idea, click the left side of the idea. When the grabber hand  appears, drag the idea to the new location.



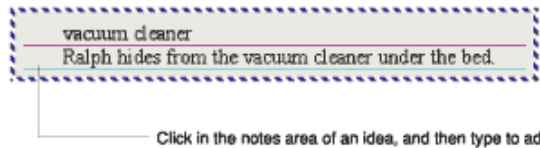
This is what your writing project looks like now:



Add details to an idea

Notes are a great way to add more information about an idea. You can add as many lines of notes as you wish.

1. Click below the magenta line of the vacuum cleaner idea to add details.



2. Type **Ralph hides from the vacuum cleaner under the bed.**

Return to Picture view

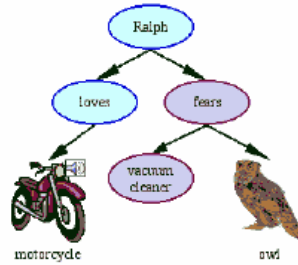
While you've been working in Writing view, Kidspiration has been adding symbols to your diagram to represent the ideas you added in Writing view.

To view your project in Picture view, click the Go to Pictures button.



To view a writing project in Picture view, click the Go to Pictures button.

This is what your diagram looks like now:



Close your project and return to the Kidspiration Starter

To close your project and return to the Kidspiration Starter, click the Kidspiration character.



To return to the Kidspiration Starter, click the Kidspiration character.

Start a new diagram

To start a new diagram, click the Picture button.



To start a new diagram, click the Picture button.

A new diagram opens with the *First Idea* symbol selected. We want to delete the *First Idea* symbol. To do this, click the Clear button on the toolbar.

Add a SuperGrouper category

Categorizing and sorting are important skills for K-3 students; the SuperGrouper tool makes these activities easy and fun.

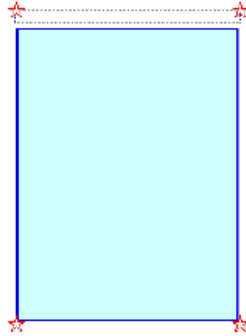
1. On the Picture toolbar, click the SuperGrouper button, and then click the rectangle SuperGrouper shape to add it to your diagram.



To add a SuperGrouper category, click the SuperGrouper button

...and then click the SuperGrouper shape that you want.

Now your diagram looks like this:



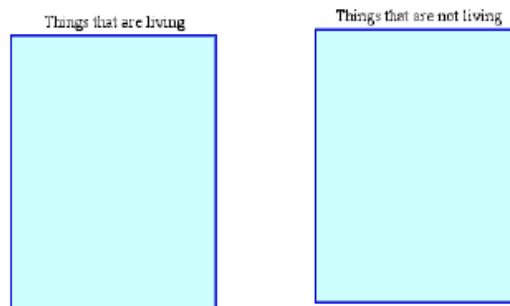
2. Click on your diagram background to the right of your first SuperGrouper category so it is not selected.
3. Add a second SuperGrouper category to your diagram just like the first one so you have two rectangle SuperGrouper shapes side by side.
4. Adjust the position of each SuperGrouper category by dragging it.

Add a title to a SuperGrouper category

Now, let's add a title to each SuperGrouper category.


1. To add a title to the first SuperGrouper category, select it, and then type **Things that are living**.
2. Now add a title to the second SuperGrouper category. Select the second SuperGrouper category, and then type **Things that are not living**.

Now your diagram looks like this:

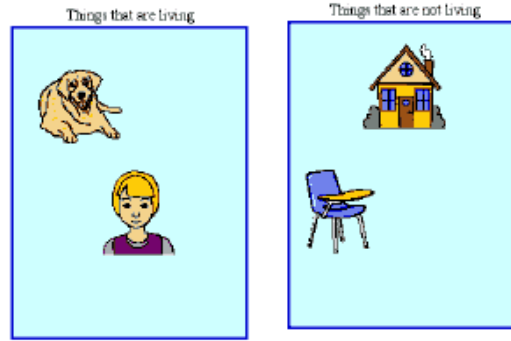


Add symbols to a SuperGrouper category

Now, we are ready to add symbols to each SuperGrouper category. The easiest way to do this is to drag symbols from the Symbol palette.

1. From the basic symbol library, drag the dog to the *Things that are living* category.
2. Now drag the house to the *Things that are not living* category.
3. Click the Pick Library button , and then click School.
4. Now drag a symbol from the library into the appropriate category.
5. Continue to navigate the libraries and find several symbols for each SuperGrouper category.

Now, your SuperGrouper categories look something like this:



Remove a symbol from a SuperGrouper category

To remove a symbol from a SuperGrouper category, drag the symbol to another location. Or to delete the symbol, select it, and then click the Clear button.



To delete a symbol from a SuperGrouper category, select the symbol, and then click the Clear button.

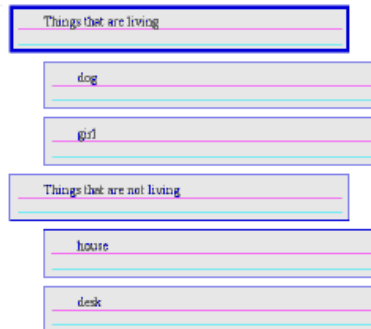
View a SuperGrouper category in Writing view

To view the SuperGrouper categories in Writing view, click the Go to Writing button.



To view a SuperGrouper diagram in Writing view, click the Go to Writing button.

This is what the SuperGrouper categories look like in Writing view:



The titles of the SuperGrouper categories assume a top-level position, and the symbols that each SuperGrouper category contains are supporting ideas. Any changes you make here will be reflected in Picture view.

Close Your Project

To close your project and return to the Kidspiration Starter, click the Kidspiration character.

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This tutorial is a great starting point for learning how to use Kidspiration™. Feel free to use the tutorial as a script for your workshop, or copy and distribute to those you train.