

Begin with what is on the page

A 12-minute sample segment - not the full workshop.

READ / DAO DE JING, CHAPTER 64 - TWO EXCERPTS

合抱之木，生於毫末。

A tree that takes both arms to embrace grows from a slender shoot.

千里之行，始於足下。

A journey of a thousand li starts beneath your feet.

Classical Chinese excerpts, shown separately with modern punctuation. English: River Matrix working translation. These lines are not adjacent in the chapter. Li is a traditional Chinese unit of distance.

FACILITATE / BRING ONLY PAPER AND A PEN

0-2 min Read the two excerpts. Invite each person to choose one concrete image.

2-5 min Ask: Which words describe scale? Which describe a beginning? Point to the words in the text; allow more than one reading.

5-8 min Write one new, contemporary sentence using an ordinary object and a small beginning. Label it as your own sentence, not a quotation.

8-10 min Invite optional paired sharing. Compare the words borrowed from the text with the writer's own words. Passing is always fine.

10-12 min Revise one word for precision. Close by asking whether the instructions were clear - not by collecting anyone's private writing.

SOURCE CHECK AND PREVIEW USE

National Palace Museum: Transcription of the Classic of the Way, Chapter 64

Wikisource: Dao De Jing (Wang Bi text), Chapter 64

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Quotation. Observation. A new sentence.

Your own writing stays yours. Share only if you choose.

01 / CHOOSE AN IMAGE

千里之行，始於足下。

A journey of a thousand li starts beneath your feet.

Dao De Jing, Chapter 64 (excerpt). English: River Matrix working translation.

02 / NOTICE THE WORDS

Copy two words from the passage. What do they make you notice?

03 / WRITE IN YOUR OWN VOICE

Use a concrete object and a small beginning. One sentence is enough.

Studio demonstration: "I open the notebook and write the date."

A fictional example - not a classical quotation or a participant result.

04 / MAKE ONE CHANGE

Underline anything you quoted. Revise one other word for precision.

Optional share: explain your word choice, or pass. No names or personal stories are required. Keep this sheet; the facilitator does not collect it.

Text sources and preview-use note: page 1. This is a literary exercise, not therapeutic or predictive guidance.