

# Writing Prompts

**Goals: Build Writing Stamina. Directions: Each week, sit in a quiet area for at least 30 minutes, choose a prompt, and write for an extended period of time.**

## Incoming 6th Grader Prompts:

1. What are the three most important lessons parents should teach their children and why?
2. Explain how contributing responsibly helps or how it hurts a group when someone doesn't do his part.
3. The childhood rhyme Mary Had a Little Lamb (1830) is based on an incident in the life of Mary Sawyer of Sterling, Massachusetts. when her lamb followed her to school one day. What was your favorite nursery rhyme as a child? Why do you think you liked it so much?
4. What is your idea of a wonderful breakfast? Describe exactly what you'd serve and why.
5. Write a story about the time you turned invisible.
6. Imagine that you went to school and there were no teachers! Talk about what that day would be like.
7. Write about a time when you lost (or found) something of value. How did that experience affect your opinion of the saying, "Finders keepers; losers' weepers?"
8. Explain what makes your favorite television show so enjoyable or relatable to you.
9. You receive a battered package in the mail. Write a story about its journey from the sender to you.
10. Think about a time you experienced disappointment. Discuss how going through disappointments can have a positive side.
11. If you could talk to a sahabi, who would it be? Why? What questions would you ask? What do you think they would say?
12. You're walking through a pet store when you discover that you can talk to the animals. What happens next?
13. You wake up tomorrow with a silly superpower that makes you famous. What is that silly power? How does it lead to your becoming an international superstar?
14. Rewrite a fairy tale from the antagonist's ("bad guy") perspective. (Such as Rewrite "Hansel and Gretel" from the witch's perspective).
15. Covid Comic: Create a comic that highlights a character feeling isolated, or processing conflicting news about pandemic, or coping with social distancing or coping with the closing of schools. Use illustrations highlighting your story.

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## Incoming 7th Grader Prompts:

1. There are numerous world-class museums around the world. For example, there is The Louvre, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Hermitage. There are also some oddball museums such as the Museum of Bad Art or the National Mustard Museum. If you could create a museum about any topic, what would it be about? Describe three or four exhibits that would be in your museum.
2. You are given an exceptional camera. Everything you take a picture of becomes yours, but you can only take three pictures. Tell a story about the photos you take.
3. You find a pair of shoes and put them on. Suddenly you find yourself transported into someone else's life. Describe what happens.
4. Write a story from the perspective of an item in your refrigerator.
5. You've just discovered a door that you've never seen before. What happens when you walk through it?
6. Peer pressure and bullying can make life as a middle school student difficult. Describe a time you were pressured or bullied and how it affected you.
7. Sometimes difficulties draw families closer. Describe something that your family endured together that strengthened your relationships.
8. What is your favorite color? How would you describe your favorite color to a blind person?
9. Write about a valuable lesson that you learned while playing your favorite sport.
10. What people in your life inspire you and why? King stated in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." What is your opinion on how close America has come to fulfilling King's dream? What evidence do you have to support your opinion?
11. What qualities do you think a great teacher must have? Explain your answer. Do you have a favorite teacher from your school experiences? Write a letter of appreciation to that teacher.
12. The Golden Gate Bridge is a symbol of San Francisco, recognizable by people all over the world. Do you have any symbols or monuments for your city or community? What are they? Even if you don't have a symbol that you can think of, explain why you think these types of symbols are important to people.
13. What is a dream that you have for your future? Describe this dream and explain the steps you can take right away to help make it come true.
14. Write about your favorite ancestor. If you don't know if your ancestor or don't

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have a favorite one, tell which favorite person you wish was your ancestor. Explain your reasons for picking this person.

15. Based on the life and times of Noah Webster of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, this day celebrates words. Over 800 words are added annually to our language. Look up some of the new additions or make a suggestion for the adoption of a new word.
16. Tall tales are possibly true stories that contain highly exaggerated actions or events. Create a tall tale about something that happened in your family.
17. Write a letter introducing yourself to your favorite fictional character. Tell him or her about yourself and describe a few things you have in common.
18. Covid Chronicles: Using your favorite graphic novels (anime is also fine) rewrite a scene from a book observing the new social distancing rules but maintaining the story line. Use illustrations to highlight your story.
19. Build a treehouse. Describe the dimensions of the building, the placement of the furniture, how many steps are on the ladder, what materials and tools you used to create it as well as any unique features that you added.

### Incoming 8th Grader Prompts:

1. Playing a team sport can have both good and bad parts. Explain both the good parts and the bad parts about playing on a school sports team, explaining every part.
2. If you were president, what one thing would you like to change in this country? How would you change it?
3. You find a time machine in your backyard. What happens when you step inside and the door locks shut behind you?
4. Community service is a valuable experience. Describe a time you volunteered. What did you do and how did it make you feel? What else would you like to do in the future to help your community?
5. In the poem "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost, the neighbor states 'Good fences make good neighbors'. Explain what you think that statement means. You might need to read the entire poem.
6. The goal of Amnesty International is to protect and promote human rights across the world. Their motto is, "Fight injustice and help create a world where human rights are enjoyed by all." In some countries, genocide (the systemized killing of an entire ethnic group) is still being carried out. What is the responsibility of the United States? Do we have a duty to step in and stop these

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- types of human rights violations? Explain your answer.
7. In 1994, political activist Nelson Mandela was sworn in as South Africa's 1st black president. Mandela followed the example of the civil disobedience practices used by Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Consider King's statement, "Any man who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community on the injustice of the law is, at that moment, expressing the very highest respect for the law." For what injustice would you practice civil disobedience and be willing to stay in jail?
  8. In 1861, the U.S. Post Office authorized the first postcard. Postcards are usually sent from a vacation place or as a greeting card to mark an event, or even just to say "hello". Design a postcard and prepare a message.
  9. There are numerous world-class museums around the world. For example, there is The Louvre, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Hermitage. There are also some oddball museums such as the Museum of Bad Art, or the National Mustard Museum. If you could create a museum about any topic, what would it be about? Describe three or four exhibits that would be in your museum.
  10. Create a diary entry about a special day. This can be a real day in your own life or a fictional diary entry. Make sure to start with 'Dear Diary'.
  11. Should cameras on drones watch all public spaces to prevent crime, or is that a violation of privacy?
  12. What is something scary that you would like to try? What makes it scary for you? How would you overcome that fear?
  13. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation hires you as a consultant to determine the best way to use \$20 billion to save the world. What's your plan?
  14. Does social media represent people authentically? Explain with examples.
  15. What three features should your future house have? Why?
  16. In the future, what extreme sports will people be talking about? Create your own extreme sport and describe it.
  17. **Pandemic Adaptations:** Rewrite a scene from a story, show, or movie, considering what needs to change for it to be realistic in our current pandemic situation, but still retain the original essential themes and meaning.
  18. Build an escape pod or secret bunker. Describe the dimensions of the building, where it is located, what materials and tools you used to create it, as well as any unique features that you added.