

## Spring Writing Prompts

Grades 6-8

Spring has officially sprung, bringing with it many exciting new activities and experiences to explore! With these spring-themed writing prompts, adolescents can draw inspiration from their favorite seasonal activities and practice valuable writing skills at the same time.

Practicing responding to creative writing prompts can help students strengthen skills such as crafting a narrative, establishing a clear sequence of events, developing an argument, and more. Creative writing can also help students develop stronger reading skills, especially when they are encouraged to read their written responses aloud.

This guide includes fall-themed creative fiction and nonfiction writing prompts for adolescents in Grades 6-8. These prompts would be appropriate for use in the home as well as for classroom use. The prompts were written to encourage responders to draw from various literacy skills included in the [Common Core ELA Writing Standards](#).

### Reflection and Feedback—Suggestions for Caregivers and Educators

When administering these prompts, provide adolescents with ample time to respond thoroughly and carefully. After writing, there are a few different feedback methods that may be helpful.

#### Independent Reflection

- Encourage writers to go back over what they have written to check for spelling, grammar, or logical errors.
- Encourage writers to read their written responses aloud. Some may have an easier time hearing mistakes than seeing them on the page.

#### Peer Feedback

- If multiple adolescents are participating in this activity, encourage them to read one another's responses. Then, have them share what they liked about the other writers' responses, and any questions they have about them.

#### Caregiver/Educator Feedback

- Read over the responses. Check for the following elements:
  - Do their responses effectively address the question of the prompt?
  - Did they structure their narratives with a clear progression of events and/or ideas?
  - Did they successfully implement narrative techniques such as dialogue, descriptive language, and sensory details?
  - Do they back up any argumentative claims with logical supporting details?

- Do their responses include clear and effective conclusions?
- Did they demonstrate repeated or consistent mechanical errors, such as issues with spelling, sentence structure, or punctuation? If so, provide corrective feedback.
- Pick one or two areas of feedback to highlight for your writers and take time to discuss them together. You may be able to find additional resources on the web to provide practice opportunities in particular areas where improvement is needed. Be sure to also point out a few things that they are doing well in their writing.

Lastly, celebrate the writing process! Encourage writers to share their responses with friends, family members, and other loved ones. Perhaps they could send a handwritten copy of their response to a grandparent or call up a cousin and read what they wrote over the phone. And if a writer seems passionate about a specific prompt or topic, encourage them to keep writing about it, either via more guided practice or as something to do in their free time!

### **Additional Resources**

- For more information on writing prompts, read our [Understanding and Responding to Writing Prompts Guide](#).

### Grades 6-8 Writing Prompts

The writing prompts that are listed below are also included on the pages that follow on lined sheets you can print and hand out to adolescents to write their responses.

#### Fiction

Happy April Fool's Day! Write a story about the best April Fools' Day prank ever. Be sure to describe the events in a clear and logical order and to use at least two instances of dialogue to show how different characters react to the prank.

Many gardeners like to fill their gardens with ceramic gnomes of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Write a story in which these gnomes come to life. What do the gnomes do next? Be sure to include at least three unique garden gnome characters, using creative adjectives to describe what the gnomes look and sound like.

Play ball! During spring training, baseball players across the country get into shape for the upcoming season. Write a short story about a baseball player who is participating in their first ever spring training. What emotions are they feeling? What happens? Be sure to use lots of sensory details to describe what the character sees, hears, and feels.

It's time for spring cleaning! Write a story about a character who helps their family clean out the attic and finds something exciting or unexpected. Your story can be as realistic or as strange as you wish, but be sure to use lots of details to describe what happens.

What a strange and unusual plant! Write a story about a character who visits a greenhouse and sees a plant that is unlike anything they have ever seen before. Be sure to use all five senses to describe what the plant is like and what the character experiences next.

#### Nonfiction

If you could travel to any place in the world for spring break, where would you go? What would you do there? Be sure to explain your answer using lots of details.

March 8 is International Women's Day. Think of a woman in your life who inspires you. Then, write a short essay explaining who they are and what makes them special. Alternatively, research a famous scientist, musician, or other well-known woman and write a short essay describing their accomplishments. Be sure to use lots of details and to organize your thoughts in a logical order.

Many religious and cultural holidays occur in the spring months, including Ramadan, Holi, Purim, Easter, and more. Pick a spring holiday that you do not know much about. Research it online. Then, write a brief essay explaining how and why the holiday is celebrated. Be sure to use lots of details and to organize your thoughts in a logical order.



## Iowa Reading Research Center

May 1 is International Workers Day. Write a brief essay telling what kind of job you would like to have when you are older and why you think that job would be a good fit for you. Be sure to explain your answer using specific and descriptive details.

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. Write a persuasive essay explaining why you think it is important for people to take care of the Earth. Be sure to use convincing details and to organize your thoughts in a logical manner. If necessary, do some online research to find evidence that supports your argument.







































