

Spring Writing Prompts

Grades 9-12

Spring has officially sprung, bringing with it many exciting new activities and experiences to explore! With these spring-themed writing prompts, teens 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 teens in Grades 9-12. 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 teens 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 teens 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 9-12 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 teens to write their responses.

Fiction

For some students, springtime is graduation season! Write a story about a student who is graduating high school. Describe what their graduation ceremony is like and what emotions they feel during it. Be sure to use lots of sensory details to describe what your character experiences.

In Middle England, people celebrated May Day with flower crowns, feasts, and of course, maypole dancing. Write a story that takes place during a May Day celebration long ago. The story can be as realistic or as fantastical as you would like. Be sure to include descriptive details and at least three instances of dialogue between different characters.

In the springtime, many people enjoy planting flower and vegetable gardens. Write a story about a teen who volunteers in a community garden. Do they have a green thumb, or do they struggle to get the plants to grow? Be sure to use descriptive sensory details to show what your character sees, hears, smells, and feels.

From the newly budded flowers to the bright rays of sunshine, spring is surely one of the most beautiful times of the year. Write a poem that describes the spring season. Your poem should be at least 15 lines long and should use at least one simile (a comparison using “like” or “as”), one metaphor (a comparison that does not use “like” or “as”), and one instance of alliteration (using two-or-more words in a row that all start with the same consonant sound).

For basketball fans, spring is the season for March Madness, an annual college basketball tournament that determines the year’s champions. Write a story that takes place at the March Madness championship game. You can choose whether your story is from the perspective of a player or a fan, but be sure to use descriptive sensory details to show what happens.

Nonfiction

People who are born in the spring can have one of three zodiac signs: Aries, Taurus, or Gemini. Do you know your zodiac sign? Do some research and see what you can find out about your sign and the personality traits some believe it indicates. Then, write a brief essay explaining whether or not you think the information you find about your sign accurately represents your personality. Be sure to use lots of convincing details.

Every year, when Daylight Saving Time begins in March, we set our clocks ahead and lose an hour of sleep. Did you know that some people think we should eliminate this practice altogether? Go online and research the pros and cons of Daylight Saving Time. Then, write a

short, argumentative essay explaining whether or not you think Daylight Saving Time should continue. Be sure to use convincing details and to organize your thoughts in a logical manner.

There are a few different movie-inspired holidays in the spring, including *Alien* Day (April 26) and *Star Wars* Day (May 4). What is a movie that you think deserves to have its own holiday? How would the holiday be celebrated? Explain your answer using lots of details.

Many high schools celebrate springtime with a formal dance. If you were in charge of planning your high school's prom, what theme would you choose? How would you decorate? What band would play? What kinds of snacks would be served? Describe your ideal prom with as many details as possible. Be sure to be specific and descriptive!

Spring is sometimes called the "season of rebirth." This makes it a great time to try new things and learn new skills. Write a short essay describing a new skill or activity you would like to try this spring. Include why you would like to try this activity and what steps you can take to learn more about it. Be sure to be specific, detailed, and organized in your response.

