

Fanfiction Writing Prompts

For Grades 6–12

Fanfiction is a genre of fiction written by fans of existing books, TV shows, movies, or other intellectual properties. Fanfiction stories typically include characters and narrative elements (e.g., settings, objects) from the original works. This kind of writing can be an excellent creative writing medium for students, as it encourages a deeper engagement with and understanding of the source material. It also allows students to practice narrative writing skills without the burden of generating an entirely unique set of characters.

These fanfiction writing prompts are appropriate for middle- and high-school students. They can be used in the classroom or at home. For more information on writing prompts, read our [“Understanding and Responding to Writing Prompts Guide.”](#)

Happily Ever After...?

Have students select one character from a novel or story read in class. Encourage them to write a short story describing what happens to this character after the original text ends.

Prequel Pros

Assign students to read a novel or story that does not have much explicit exposition or that features references to past events that are never fully developed. Ask students to write a short story explaining an event that happened sometime before the start of the original text.

Mashup!

Ask students to select a character from a novel or short story read in class and to imagine what would happen if that character were placed in the world of another assigned text. Have each student write a short story showing how that character might interact with the characters and events of the secondary text. For example, what would happen if Katniss from *The Hunger Games* were placed in the world of Lois Lowry’s *The Giver*?

A Day in the Life

Have students select a character from an assigned novel or free read. Ask them to write a short story following a regular day in the life of this character, outside of the events of the story.

Mixed Media

Assign students to read a short piece of prose in class. Then, ask students to rewrite the story as a poem, short play, or movie scene.

Character Close-Up

Ask students to select one character from an assigned novel or free read. Assign them to create a depiction of the character's online life that accurately captures the character's personality. This portfolio could include things like a mock Facebook or Instagram profile, the transcript of a YouTube video, a blog post, direct messages or emails back and forth with another character, and more!

Genre Bender

Ask students to identify the genre of a novel or short story read in class. Then, have them select one scene from the text and rewrite it in the style of a different genre. Encourage them to be as creative as possible. What if *Tom Sawyer* was a mystery thriller? What if *Lord of the Flies* was a romantic comedy? For more information on fiction and nonfiction genres, see our ["Genre-Themed Writing Prompts."](#)

Perspective Swap

Ask students to select one scene from a novel or short story read in class. Assign them to rewrite this scene from the perspective of a different character. What changes? What stays the same?

We're Not in Kansas Anymore

Assign students to select a scene from a novel or short story read in class. Ask them to rewrite the events of the scene with a vastly different setting. This could mean changing the location of the events or transporting them to a different time period. For example, students might write about *The Great Gatsby* on Mars or *The Odyssey* set in the year 2050. Encourage them to consider how the setting of the story directly impacts the way the events unfold. They should do their best to keep their adaptation's characters and events generally aligned with the original text.

Act It Out

Take a novel that your students have read in class and assign 3–5 students to each chapter (or page range, depending on class size and text length). Have these students write and practice a short play script based on their section of the novel. Then, have them perform the scenes in order to see the entire novel acted out. For more information on writing scenes, see our ["Beginner's Guide to Playwriting."](#)