

Fall Writing Prompts

Grades 3–5

Fall is a season that has something for everyone, including exciting sports seasons, creepy celebrations, natural beauty, and more! With these fall-themed writing prompts, teens can explore many fun fall topics while practicing valuable writing skills!

Practicing responding to creative writing prompts at home 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 young students develop stronger reading skills, especially when they are encouraged to read their written responses aloud.

This guide includes summer-themed creative fiction and nonfiction writing prompts for children in Grades 3-5. While originally intended for use in the home during summer, these prompts would also be appropriate 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 children 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 children 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 3-5 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 children to write their responses.

Fiction

In the fall, many towns host exciting fall festivals and celebrations. Write a story about a kid who visits one of these festivals. What do they see there? What do they do? For example, do they bob for apples, paint a pumpkin, go for a hayride, or something different? Be sure to use lots of details.

Fall is the season for trick-or-treating! Write a story about two friends who go trick-or-treating together on Halloween night. Be sure to organize the events of the story in an order that makes sense and use dialogue to show what the characters say to one another.

Double, double, toil and trouble! Imagine that you are a witch who can make any magical potion you want. What kind of potion would you make? What would happen when someone tasted it? What ingredients would you need to use? Be sure to use descriptive language and give lots of details. Have you ever been to a corn maze?

Write a story about a person who is visiting the largest corn maze in the world. What happens? For example, do they get lost? How do they find their way out? Be sure to give lots of details explaining what happens and how your character feels throughout the story.

One beloved fall holiday is Thanksgiving—also known as Turkey Day! Write a silly story about a turkey who escapes the turkey farm right before the big day. What happens next? Be sure to use lots of details and to organize the events of the story in a clear order.

Nonfiction

You might get to see the leaves change color this fall. Take a walk outside and enjoy the fall beauty! Then, write one or two paragraphs describing what you saw. Be sure to use descriptive language and include details about what you saw, heard, smelled, and felt.

Of all the creatures that go bump in the night, vampires and werewolves are two of the most famous. If you could choose, which would you rather be: a vampire or a werewolf? Be sure to explain your answer with lots of supporting details.

Do you and your family celebrate Thanksgiving? If so, write a paragraph describing your favorite Thanksgiving food, and why you like it. If you don't celebrate Thanksgiving, look up a list of common Thanksgiving foods and write about your favorite one or one you would like to try!

Fall can be a great time to explore the outdoors. What do you like to do outside in the fall? Do you go hiking? Toss a football around? Tell about your favorite outdoor fall activities, using lots of descriptive details.

Trick or treat! What is your favorite type of candy? Why do you like it so much? Be sure to support your answer with lots of details about how it looks, smells, feels, and tastes.

Grades: 3-5

Category: Fiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

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