

Fall Writing Prompts

Grades 6–8

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 adolescents in Grades 6-8. 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 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

Nothing says Halloween like pumpkins and ghosts! Write a story about someone who visits a haunted pumpkin patch. Be sure to organize the events of the story in a clear order and describe what happens using lots of details.

In the fall, many farmers put scarecrows in their fields to scare away the crows and keep them from eating all the corn. Write a short fantasy story about a scarecrow who has come to life and their first day on the job. For example, what does it say to the crows? How does it try to scare them away? Is the scarecrow successful? Be sure to use lots of descriptive details.

In the fall, baseball fans around the world gather to watch the Fall Classic—also known as the World Series—when the Major League Baseball champions are crowned. Write a story about a baseball player who is competing in the final and deciding game of this series. How do they feel before the game starts? What happens during the game? Who wins? Be sure to use lots of details to describe what the character is seeing, feeling, and doing.

In the fall, many people bake pies, from pecan to apple to the classic pumpkin. Write a short story that takes place at a fall pie-baking competition. What happens? For example, who enters the contest? Who wins? Be sure to include descriptive details and at least one scene of dialogue where two or more characters are speaking.

As the weather begins to get cooler, the fall is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Write a story about a family that goes on a fall camping trip. Is the trip a success or are there unexpected problems? What kinds of things do the family members do and see? Be sure to use lots of descriptive details and at least one instance of dialogue where two or more characters are speaking.

Nonfiction

On Halloween night, there are lots of activities to do, such as trick-or-treating, handing out candy to others trick-or-treating, and throwing a Halloween party. How do you plan to spend your Halloween this year? Will you do the same thing as last year, or will you try something new? Explain your answer with lots of details.

During the fall months, apple treats are popular, including apple cider, apple pie, caramel apples, and more. What is your favorite apple-based treat? What do you like about it? Do you make it yourself or get it from a store? Be sure to support your answer with lots of convincing details.

Fall marks the beginning of many different sports seasons. Do you play any fall sports? If so, which sports do you play, and why do you like them? If you don't play any sports, are there any you enjoy watching? Why or why not? Be sure to explain your answer with lots of details.

Fall can be a great season to spend time with your family. Does your family have any fall traditions? Describe your favorite fall family activity. Be sure to give lots of details.

Every year, Halloween is celebrated on October 31, regardless of the day of the week. However, some people think we should move Halloween to the last Saturday of October. They say it would make the holiday safer and easier to celebrate, as most adults would not have to work, so trick-or-treating could happen before sundown. What do you think? Should Halloween always be on Saturday? Why or why not? Be sure to organize your thoughts in a clear order and to give lots of supporting details.

Grades: 6-8

Category: Nonfiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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