

# Fall Writing Prompts

## Grades 9–12

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 teens in Grades 9-12. 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 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 with fillable fields where teens can write their responses via typing.

### Fiction

Etiological myths are stories that are told to explain the reasons behind natural events. For example, the ancient Greeks used the myth of Persephone and Hades to explain why the seasons change. Write your own etiological myth explaining why the leaves change color in the fall. Be as creative as you can and be sure to use descriptive language to show what happens.

Do you like activities that are a little scary? Write a creative story about a group of friends who visit a haunted house. The story can be as creepy or as silly as you want but be sure to use lots of descriptive details to establish the tone of the story and to show the reader what happens. In the fall, many local, state, and national elections take place.

Even if you are not yet old enough to vote in those elections, you can participate in school government! Write a story about a student who is running for class president. Describe their campaign and the obstacles they face. For example, you could write about their policy agenda, their campaign strategy, and their opponents. Be sure to use lots of details and to create a story with a clear beginning, middle, and end. There are many famous poems about the beauty of autumn.

Write a poem of at least 15 lines surrounding the topic of fall. 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 personification (describing an inanimate object with human characteristics).

Many people celebrate the arrival of autumn as the start of football season! Imagine that you are the announcer for the most exciting football game of all time. Using the first-person point of view, write what you see happen. Be sure to use lots of descriptive language to show what is happening.

### Nonfiction

There are many great Halloween movies, from creepy classics to fun animated specials. What is your favorite Halloween-themed movie? What do you like about it? Be sure to use convincing details to back up your arguments and to organize your thoughts in a logical order.

The first part of the school year is a great time to try out new extracurricular activities. What is one extracurricular that you have never tried but would like to? What about this activity is appealing to you? Be sure to explain your reasoning using clear and descriptive details.

During the fall months, many high schools celebrate homecoming with festivities such as a parade, a football game, and a dance. How do people celebrate homecoming in your town? Be sure to use descriptive details and to organize your thoughts in a logical manner.

Boo! It's autumn, which means it's time for all the ghosts and ghouls to come out to play! Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not? Explain your answer with many convincing details and be sure to organize your thoughts in a logical manner.

Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, is a Mexican festival that is held every year from October 31 to November 2. This holiday is a time to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed away. Is there anyone in your life who you would like to remember this fall? Write 2-3 paragraphs describing who this person was, what your favorite memories of them are, how they impacted your life, and what you could do to honor them this fall.

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