

Summer Writing Prompts

Kindergarten–Grade 2

As soon as the bell rings on the last day of the academic year, most students turn their attention toward all the fun things they are going to do during their summer break. This enthusiasm for summer can actually be used as a source of motivation for writing that will keep their literacy skills sharp!

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 kindergarten through Grade 2. 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](#).

Kindergarten-Grade 2 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

Pretend that you are a mermaid swimming in the ocean. What do you see? What do you do?

Tell a story about a person who goes on an adventure to look for treasure on Pirate Island. How do they get to the island? What do they do there? Do they find treasure? What kind of treasure is it?

Imagine that for one day this summer, you could do whatever you want! What would you do in the morning, afternoon, and at night? What would happen?

Pretend you are in charge of planning a picnic for your whole family. What food do you pack? Do you bring anything else besides food? Be sure to use lots of details to explain your ideas.

Pretend you went swimming in a lake and a fish started talking to you. What do you think it would say? Would you say anything back?

Nonfiction

What do you like to do when it is hot outside? Explain your answer with lots of details.

Would you rather visit the mountains or the beach? Explain why with lots of details.

On hot summer days, some people visit the lake, and others swim in the pool. What about those two activities is the same? What is different? Explain your answer with lots of details.

Imagine you could take a summer vacation to any place in the world, where would you go and why? Explain your answer with lots of details.

Write about the things you and your family do together in the summer. Explain your answer with lots of details.

Grades: K-2

Category: Fiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Pretend that you are a mermaid swimming in the ocean. What do you see? What do you do?



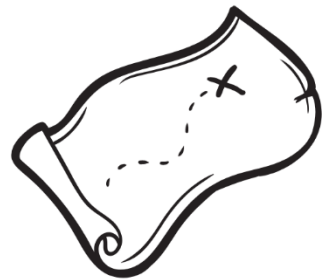
Grades: K-2

Category: Fiction

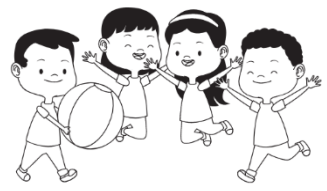
Name: _____ Date: _____

Tell a story about a person who goes on an adventure to look for treasure on
Pirate Island. How do they get to the island? What do they do there? Do they find
treasure? What kind of treasure is it?

Handwriting practice lines for the story.



Grades: K-2**Category: Fiction****Name: _____ Date: _____****Imagine that for one day this summer, you could do whatever you want! What would you do in the morning, afternoon, and at night? What would happen?**

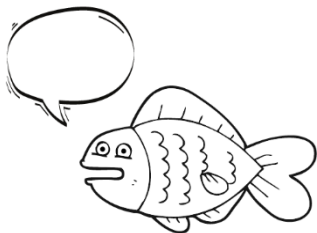


Grades: K-2

Category: Fiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pretend you went swimming in a lake and a fish started talking to you. What do you think it would say? Would you say anything back?

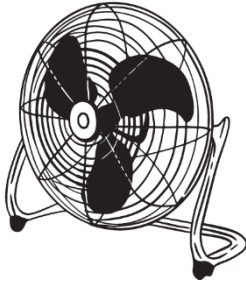


Grades: K-2

Category: Nonfiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

What do you like to do when it is hot outside? Explain your answer with lots of details.

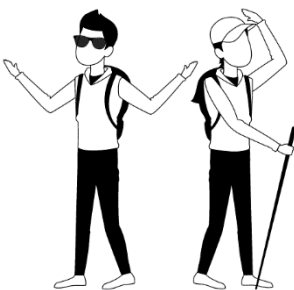


Grades: K-2

Category: Nonfiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Would you rather visit the mountains or the beach? Explain why with lots of details.



Grades: K-2

Category: Nonfiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Imagine you could take a summer vacation to any place in the world, where would you go and why? Explain your answer with lots of details.



Grades: K-2

Category: Nonfiction

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Write about the things you and your family do together in the summer. Explain your answer with lots of details.

