IOWA

Spring Writing Prompts

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Spring has officially sprung, bringing with it many exciting new activities and experiences to explore! With these spring-themed writing prompts, children can draw inspiration from their favorite seasonal activities and practice valuable writing skills at the same time.

Practicing responding to creative writing prompts 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 fall-themed creative fiction and nonfiction writing prompts for children in Kindergarten-Grade 2. These prompts would be appropriate for use in the home as well as for classroom use. The prompts were written to encourage responders to draw from various literacy skills included in the <u>Common Core ELA Writing Standards</u>.

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?
 - $\circ~$ 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?



- o 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 <u>Understanding and</u> <u>Responding to Writing Prompts Guide.</u>



Kindergarten-Grade 2 Writing Prompts

The writing prompts that are listed below are also included on the pages that follow with fillable fields where children can write their responses via typing.

Fiction

Pretend that you are a rabbit living in a big vegetable garden. How do you spend your day? What do you see? What do you eat? Be sure to use lots of details.

Write a story about a kid who takes part in their town's yearly Easter egg hunt! Where do they go to look for eggs? How many do they find? Be sure to use lots of details.

Write a St. Patrick's Day story about a leprechaun who hides from a class full of students. What does he do? What tricks does he play? Does the class catch him? Be sure to use lots of details.

It's warm outside, and lots of kids want to get on their bikes and ride! Write a story about a kid who is learning to ride a bike. Who helps them learn? Is it easy or hard? Be sure to use lots of details.

Pretend that you are a worm on a rainy day. Where do you go? What do you see? Who else do you meet out in the rain? Be sure to use lots of details.

Nonfiction

What kind of garden would you like to have? A flower garden? Or a veggie garden? Why? What would you do to help the garden grow? Explain with lots of details.

What is your favorite playground to visit in the spring? What does it look like? What do you do there? Who do you go with? Explain with lots of details.

Do you like to play in the rain? Why or why not? Explain with lots of details.

Butterflies love springtime. Bees do, too. In what ways are these bugs alike? In what ways are they different? Explain with lots of details.

Many baby animals are born in the spring. What is your favorite baby animal? Why do you like it? What does it look like? What would it feel like if you held it? Explain with lots of details.



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Iowa Reading Research Center



Grades: K-2

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