

Go Outside and Write

Grades 3-5

Many writers and artists gather inspiration from the natural world around them, and the only materials required are a pencil, paper, and curiosity! With these outdoor-themed writing prompts, children can explore their world while practicing valuable writing skills!

Responding to creative writing prompts at home can help students practice skills such as crafting a narrative, establishing a clear sequence of events, developing an argument, and more. Creative writing can also help students reinforce reading skills, especially when they are encouraged to read their written responses aloud.

This guide includes outdoor-themed creative fiction and nonfiction writing prompts for children in Grades 3-5. While originally intended for use at home, these prompts would also be appropriate for classroom use. For more information on writing prompts, read our [Understanding and Responding to Writing Prompts Guide](#).

Take these prompts with you and get outside!

Fiction

Look around—are you in a forest, a grassland, a desert, or somewhere else? Pretend you are an animal that lives here. Where do you build your home? What do you use to build it? What do you do during the day?

Using animals as the main characters, write a mystery story, or a story with a question that needs to be answered. What problem are they trying to solve? How do they solve it?

Imagine you get lost outside while exploring. Describe your surroundings. What tricks and tools do you use to survive? How do you get back home?

Create an acrostic poem on the word “nature.” In an acrostic poem, each part relates to the central theme (for example, the theme of this poem would be things you find in nature). To do this, write the word vertically on your paper. Each letter in the word “nature” will start a line of your poem, which can be a single word or longer phrase. For example, the letter “N” could start the line with “natural habitat” or even an animal like “newt.” Check out this [interactive tool](#) for more guidance.

Write a story in which you are a bug on the sidewalk. Where are you going? What is your life like? Be creative and include lots of details!

Nonfiction

Use your five senses to observe nature around you. What do you hear, smell, taste, touch, and see? Choose a sense to focus on and write about the information you've gathered. It can be a poem, a story, or anything you'd like! Be sure to use lots of details.

If you could be any plant, which would you choose and why? Where would you live? What would you see around you each day? Include description and details.

Describe an outdoor place that is important to you. Where is it, who goes there with you, and what do you do there? Be sure to use lots of details.

Have you been camping before? If so, write a letter to someone who is camping for the first time. Describe your experience and give them advice on what they should pack and know ahead of time. If you haven't been camping, write a letter to a friend telling them where you would want to go camping and asking any questions you might have about the trip.

Write a story about a time when you were outside and the weather changed. Did it start to rain or get cold? Did the sun come out? What did you do and how did you feel?

Compare and contrast two outdoor places you've visited. Which did you like more and why? What activities did you do in each place? What kind of wildlife did you see or hear?