

WriteShop

June

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Elementary
Edition

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JOURNAL ALL YEAR!

A Calendar of Writing Prompts

Daily journaling topics come in three formats. You choose!

12 monthly calendars • 240 writing prompt cards • 240 writing prompt strips

by Kim Kautzer



JOURNAL ALL YEAR!

A Calendar of Writing Prompts

This journal belongs to _____

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Journal All Year! A Calendar of Writing Prompts (Elementary Edition)

Layout and Design: Becky Thomson

Introduction & Instructions

Journal All Year!

By writing every day, not only do children become more fluent writers, they grow increasingly comfortable writing for longer stretches of time. They also have a chance to practice important spelling, punctuation, and style skills in context.

While this sounds ideal, have you ever asked your children to write about whatever they want and wondered why such freedom didn't motivate or excite them? Did you watch their faces fall as they stared blankly at that empty white page?

One of the best ways to make sure you stick with a daily writing habit is to have plenty of engaging topics on hand. Kids thrive when they're given boundaries with generous margins. Writing prompts provide the perfect launching point, especially for children who complain, "I never know what to write about!"

This set of 240 writing prompts will carry you through an entire calendar year. It includes a wide variety of topics to inspire your **3rd through 8th graders**. Calendars may be printed in your choice of three formats, each containing the same prompts:

- 12 undated monthly **calendars** for January through December
- 240 writing prompt **cards**
- 240 writing prompt **strips**

Overview

Because the same prompts are formatted as calendars, cards, and strips, you can **mix up the presentation** or storage of the prompts. For example, affix the *calendar* to your fridge, make a prompt jar with the folded *strips*, or place the prompt *cards* on a ring. You can even do a little bit of all three—the choice is yours!

The topics in these writing prompt calendars provide the perfect amount of structure to stimulate your young writer while allowing for plenty of imagination! Add them to your writing center, use them for daily warm-ups and journaling, or assign them as a supplement to your writing lessons.

Example writing prompts from the collection:

- *Where would you choose to stay for a week: an underwater hotel or an igloo hotel? Why?*
- *When you are in a bad mood, is it easy for you to snap out of it? Why or why not?*
- *You are a kitchen appliance. Write about one of your experiences.*
- *If you could snap your fingers and appear somewhere else, where would you be?*
- *What emergency supplies should everyone keep in their cars? Why?*
- *Describe your secret hideaway and tell what you would do there.*
- *Describe your pet's experience if it went with you on a whitewater rafting trip.*

The calendars are not dated, so you can **use them year after year** whenever you need writing inspiration for your elementary students and tweens. Start at any month in the year, printing out only the pages you need.

Prepare the Prompts

Print

This set contains three formats: calendars, cards, and strips. Choose the format you want to try first. If you start with calendars, for example, you can always print cards or strips later. To make it easier for you, all prompts appear in order by month. The January calendar appears first. It is followed by January cards, which are followed by January strips. Next, you'll find the February calendar, cards, and strips, and so on.

Tip

When setting up your printer options, choose **"Fit"** or **"Fit to Page"** to ensure that the calendars, cards, or strips don't get cut off at the edges.

Option 1: Print on Computer Paper

Plain computer paper—either white or colored—is ideal for calendars and strips. It is also a good option for *cards you plan to laminate*.

- If you print calendars on **white** paper, the children can color in each square as they use the prompt.
- For easy identification, try printing an entire month's prompts on a **single color** of paper. January's calendar, cards, and/or strips might be printed on light blue, for instance, while February's prompts might be printed on red.

Option 2: Print on Cardstock

When laminating is not an option, use cardstock to print CARDS. It will give you sturdier cards that are easier to store.

Cut

After printing cards or strips, cut them out along the dotted lines. A paper cutter will make short work of this task.

Laminate

There is no need to laminate calendars or strips. However, you may want to laminate the *cards* to make them more durable, especially if you plan to store them on rings. This is completely optional, of course.

Store

No matter how you display the calendars or store your cards or strips, make them accessible, along with lined paper, quirky pens and pencils, and stamps and stickers (for embellishing journal pages).

CALENDARS

- Hang the calendars on your refrigerator or bulletin board for daily reference. Optionally, number the monthly grid with your active school dates each month.
- Punch holes in the calendars and insert them in a 3-ring writing notebook. Optionally, provide 12 tabbed dividers, labeled with months of the year.
- Tape or glue the calendar pages into a spiral composition notebook or other journal.

CARDS

- Because there are so many cards, consider printing and storing one month's worth at a time.
- Store cards in a small tin or file box.
- Laminate the cards, punch a hole in the top left corner, and store them on a ring. Since there are 240 cards, you might want to use one ring for each month.

STRIPS

- Because there are so many strips, consider printing and storing one month's worth at a time.
- Fold strips and keep them in a jar, basket, or bucket. There is no special order, so it's fine if they get mixed up!

MAKE A JOURNALING NOTEBOOK

Whether you use calendars, cards, strips, or a combination, help your children keep all their daily journaling in one place!

- Use a slim binder with a see-through cover.
- Fill it with blank lined paper.
- Print a copy of either the colored or black-and-white cover to insert in the front of the binder. (The black-and-white cover has a blank line for their name.)

How to Use the Prompts

There is no single way to use the calendars, cards, and strips. They are flexible, so you can tailor them to your needs. Here are a few options.

Prompts as Freewriting Activities

Journal writing is a non-threatening way to explore different thoughts, topics, and ideas without worrying about proofreading or writing final drafts. This form of journaling is sometimes called freewriting.

Daily journal writing can be intimidating. That's why freewriting is such a wonderful way to let children practice writing without fear of judgment, criticism, or correction. Since this type of daily journaling doesn't get edited or revised, they will be comforted to know that if they "mess up," it won't count against them.

The page may be filled with errors—but that's okay. Resist the temptation to correct it. If you find mistakes, chances are you'll see those same mistakes during formal writing lessons, when you can work together on word choice, sentence structure, and mechanics.

When launching into freewriting, why not try these tips to encourage self-expression and promote tear-free, enthusiastic responses?

- **Encourage children to find their journaling space.** Let them choose a special spot where they feel inspired to dive into their topic.
- **Give free choice.** When children have a say in the topic, they will often write with more enthusiasm, so it's okay to let them choose prompts out of order. They can skip around on the monthly calendar grid, choosing the prompts that most appeal to them. Likewise, your kids can cherry-pick through their file of prompt cards to find a topic that really inspires! Or, when using strips, let them draw 2-3 prompt strips, choose their favorite for the day, and put the others back in the jar.
- **Tell them not to worry about spelling and grammar.** There is no such thing as right or wrong when freewriting.
- **Let them make their journal their own.** Stickers, markers, drawings, or photos give their journal a unique personality. Journal writing is often more fun when they can let their creative side go a little wild!
- **Go for low-pressure freewriting.** Let your kids find their own way of doing things.
- **Play soft classical music in the background.** Music can set a tone for a more fruitful writing session.
- **Give positive feedback.** Comment on increased writing stamina, good attitudes, improved content, or specific things you learned through their journaling responses. Thank them for completing the task. Let them know you appreciate and enjoy their writing, but *don't point out mistakes or offer suggestions*.

Prompts as Extended Writing Assignments

Most of the time, freewriting sessions will prevail when children respond to the daily prompts. But occasionally (once a week or so), you might want to assign a topic as an **extended writing assignment**. The prompt can become a learning lesson that directs kids to write about a particular topic in a particular way. It can be an informal draft with little or no correcting, or it can evolve into a polished final draft.

Extended writing gives the parent or teacher more control over the topic. As a rule, topics that require **explanation, persuasion**, or a **line of reasoning** lend themselves best to extended writing assignments. Prompts that invite story writing also work well.

Tip

Kids will write with greater willingness when the final topic choice is theirs. However, unlike freewriting, extended writing is generally not the time to allow absolute freedom. As a compromise, offer 2-3 appropriate prompts and ask each child to pick their favorite.

Planning Tools

Provide a graphic organizer to help students plan before they write. Use (or reuse) one of their WriteShop graphic organizers. Alternatively, [Houghton Mifflin](#) offers free printables:

- [Fact and Opinion](#)
- [Step-by-Step Chart](#)
- [Describing Wheel](#)
- [Cluster/Word Web](#)
- [Story Map 3](#)

Pre-writing Discussions

In order to fit the prompts into a one-page calendar grid (or a small card or strip), the daily WriteShop prompts needed to be concise. This means there wasn't room to ask the probing questions that help children consider different facets of a topic. But guess what? You can do that *with* them as part of an oral pre-writing activity!

You won't do this with every topic!

- Pre-writing can actually be counterproductive when using the prompts as freewriting exercises or writing warmups. That kind of writing is intended to help kids write spontaneously in short bursts, so sessions should only last 5-15 minutes.
- On the other hand, if you want students to develop a topic into a composition or essay, pre-writing discussions will help get those creative juices flowing and give them more to write about.

Example writing prompt: *What is your favorite mode of transportation? Why?*

Expand with questions like these:

- Will you pick something on land, in the air, or on (or under) water?
- Will it be a modern vehicle or something ancient?
- Is it real or imaginary?
- How does that form of transportation make you feel?
- If you could travel to the place of your choice, where would this vehicle take you?

To challenge more proficient writers, add **conditions** such as certain words to use, additional ideas to include, or a set number of sentences or paragraphs to write.

Example writing prompt: *What is your favorite mode of transportation? Why?*

Add conditions:

- Choose one modern mode and one ancient mode and contrast them.
- Include two ways they are alike and two ways they are different.
- Write one paragraph.
- Include at least three vivid verbs.

Writing Letters

It might be hard for your child to answer a journal prompt in traditional paragraph form. Suggest responding to the prompt in the form of a friendly letter.

Example writing prompt: *Describe the strangest meal you ever ate.*

Example response could start like this:

Dear Journal,

Have you ever eaten a really weird meal? I have! Last summer, when we visited my aunt, she made pizza. But not your normal pepperoni pizza. This one had corn, tuna, and olives. Olives are OK. I really like corn. And I LOVE tuna sandwiches. But together? On a pizza? Yuck, yuck, yuck! At least that's what I thought ...

Prompts as Oral Activities

Narration

If one or more of your children are not yet writing with confidence, invite them to dictate to you.

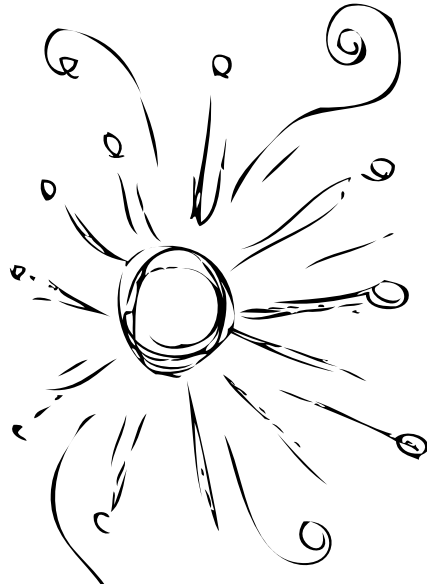
1. Write it down as they tell their story or share report details.
2. After every sentence or two, stop and read what you've written. Continually reviewing as you go helps children remember what they've already said, keeping them more focused.

Chew and Chatter

This activity uses the writing prompt strips as conversation starters around the dinner table. Some prompts lend themselves to stories, so try a Round Robin, where each family member adds a sentence or two to the story as you go around the table. Other prompts will invite discussion about current events, making choices, or setting goals. Draw a prompt from the jar and see where it takes you!

Travel Game

Take a ring of writing prompt cards on a road trip or vacation. Your family can make up stories orally in Round Robin fashion, or respond to the prompts through a lively discussion.

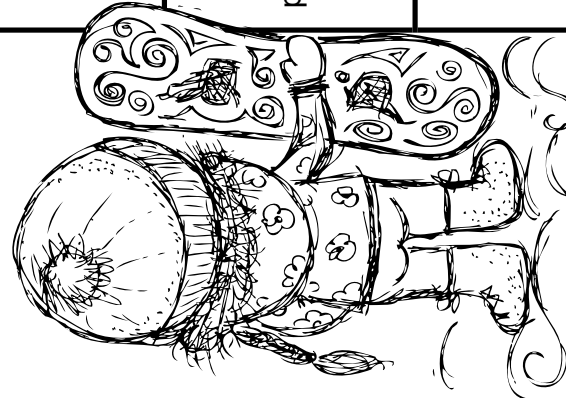


JANUARY

Writing Prompts



If you could live in a TV show, which one would it be? Why? What character would you play?	Describe the perfect ice cream sundae.	Have you ever been in an airplane? Does the idea of flying make you nervous or excited?	Would you rather be 4'7" or 7'4"? Why?	You host your own talk show. Who will be your first three guests?
Convince your parents to let you play a winter sport.	Write a paragraph telling some of the fun things you and your best friend like to do together.	Using your five senses, describe your favorite season.	Would you rather be super strong or super fast? What would you do with this super trait?	Would you rather have a third eye or a third arm? Why?
Are you outgoing or shy? Write a paragraph explaining how it feels to be in a roomful of people.	What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?	Describe how you would win a snowman-building contest.	What is your favorite book? Give 3 reasons why.	What is your family's favorite restaurant? Write about one of the menu items you like best.
What are 3 things you like to do on Saturdays?	You've decided to join the circus! What performer will you become, and why?	Would you rather be the parent or the child? Why?	What is the most special gift you've ever received? Tell about receiving it.	Describe three of your favorite smells.



If you could live in a TV show, which one would it be? Why? What character would you play?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe the perfect ice cream sundae.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Using your five senses, describe your favorite season.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather be 4'7" or 7'4"? Why?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

You host your own talk show. Who will be your first three guests?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Convince your parents to let you play a winter sport.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write a paragraph telling some of the fun things you and your best friend like to do together.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Have you ever been in an airplane? Does the idea of flying make you nervous, or does it make you excited?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather be super strong or super fast? What would you do with this super trait?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is your family's favorite restaurant? Write about one of the menu items you like best.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Are you outgoing or shy? Write a paragraph explaining how it feels to be in a roomful of people.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe how you would win a snowman-building contest.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather have a third eye or a third arm? Explain why.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is your favorite book? Give three reasons why.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What are three things you like to do on Saturdays?

January

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What is the most special gift you've ever received? Tell about receiving it.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe three of your favorite smells.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could live in a TV show, which one would it be? Why?
What character would you play?

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe the perfect ice cream sundae.

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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Who will be your first three guests?

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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you and your best friend like to do together.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Have you ever been in an airplane?
Does the idea of flying make you nervous or excited?

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather be super strong or super fast?
What would you do with this super trait?

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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What performer will you become, and why?

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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Tell about receiving it.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe three of your favorite smells.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

FEBRUARY

Writing Prompts

If you could wake up tomorrow with the ability to do something expertly, what talent or skill would you choose?	Describe your favorite candy's texture, flavor, and appearance.	Would you rather be the worst player on the best team or the best player on the worst team? Why?	Write a paragraph about what would happen if today were Backwards Day.	If you could snap your fingers and appear somewhere else, where would you be?
You are entering a community talent show. Describe your act.	The old movie theater is in trouble. Write 3 things the owner could do to improve business.	What was the weirdest food you've ever eaten? Describe it.	Convince the International Olympic Committee to adopt a crazy new winter sport you have invented.	Would you rather play 5 musical instruments or speak 5 languages? Why?
What emergency supplies should everyone keep in their cars? Why?	It's Three-Scoops Day at the ice cream store! Describe the 3 flavors you will choose.	Everyone dreams about having a superpower! What would be yours?	Imagine you have been transported into a snow globe scene! Explain what happens.	Write about the day you learned to ride a bicycle.
If each day had 25 hours, describe how would you spend that extra hour each day.	What is your earliest childhood memory?	If you could spend 15 minutes with any living person, who would it be and why?	Would you rather eat only cold food or take only cold showers for a year?	Which of the seven dwarfs—Doc, Happy, Bashful, Sleepy, Sneezy, Grumpy, or Dopey—are you most like? Why?

If you could wake up tomorrow with the ability to do something expertly, what talent or skill would you choose?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe your favorite candy's texture, flavor, and appearance.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather be the worst player on the best team or the best player on the worst team? Why?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write a paragraph about what would happen if today were Backwards Day.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

You are entering a community talent show. Describe your act.

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could snap your fingers and appear somewhere else, where would you be?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

The old movie theater is in trouble. Write three things the owner could do to improve business.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What was the weirdest food you've ever eaten? Describe it.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather play
five musical instruments
or speak five languages?
Explain why.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Convince the International
Olympic Committee to
adopt a crazy new winter
sport you have invented.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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should everyone keep in
their cars? Why?

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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dwarfs—Doc, Happy,
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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write about the day you
learned to ride a bicycle.

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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been transported into a
snow globe scene!
Explain what happens.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is your earliest
childhood memory?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If each day had 25 hours, describe how you would spend that extra hour each day.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could spend 15 minutes with any living person, who would it be and why?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather eat only cold food or take only cold showers for a year?

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Describe the three flavors you will choose.

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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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Explain what happens.

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WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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you spend that extra hour each day.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could spend 15 minutes with any
living person, who would it be and why?

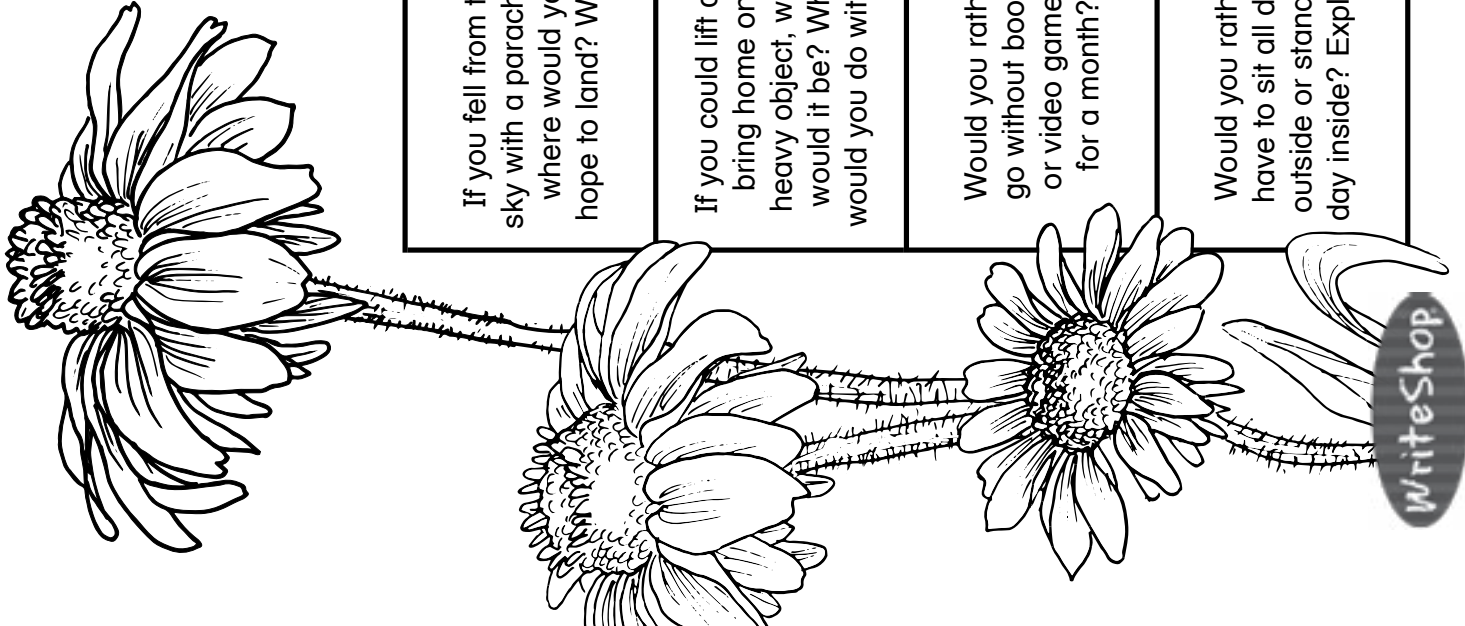
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WriteShop® FEBRUARY
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Everyone dreams about having a superpower!
What would be yours?

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary



MARCH

Writing Prompts



If you fell from the sky with a parachute, where would you hope to land? Why?	Would you prefer living in a hot climate or a cold climate? Why?	Write a story about what a rock climber found inside a secret cave.	What is your favorite mode of transportation? Why?	Describe a dream your dog might have when he is sleeping.
If you could lift and bring home one heavy object, what would it be? What would you do with it?	Describe the leprechaun trap you would build if you wanted a pot of gold.	Imagine what might happen if a mouse became the substitute teacher for a class of tiger cubs.	If you were to write a book, what would it be about?	A stranger hands you a \$100 bill and tells you to do a good deed with it. What do you do?
Would you rather go without books or video games for a month?	Who was your favorite coach, teacher, scout leader, or Sunday school teacher? Why?	When things feel scary or uncertain, where do you go for comfort or security?	Whom do you admire the most? Explain the 3 best qualities this person has.	You found a lucky clover that will grant 4 wishes for other people. List your wishes.
Would you rather have to sit all day outside or stand all day inside? Explain.	What is something you did recently for the very first time? Write about it.	Describe something you would do if you knew you couldn't possibly fail.	Many kids have a special blanket or stuffed animal they can't sleep without. Do you? Tell about it.	Would you rather be able to only whisper or only yell?

If you fell from the sky with a parachute, where would you hope to land? Why?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you prefer living in a hot climate or a cold climate? Why?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write a story about what a rock climber found inside a secret cave.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is your favorite mode of transportation? Why?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe a dream your dog might have when he is sleeping.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could lift and bring home one heavy object, what would it be? What would you do with it?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe the leprechaun trap you would build if you wanted a pot of gold.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Imagine what might happen if a mouse became the substitute teacher for a class of tiger cubs.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you were to write a book,
what would it be about?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

A stranger hands you a
\$100 bill and tells you to do
a good deed with it. What
do you do?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather go without
books or without video
games for a month?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Who was your favorite
coach, teacher, scout
leader, or Sunday school
teacher? Why?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

When things feel scary or
uncertain, where do you go
for comfort or security?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Whom do you
admire the most?
Explain the three best
qualities this person has.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

You found a lucky
clover that will grant four
wishes for other people.
List your wishes.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather have to sit
all day outside or stand all
day inside? Explain.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is something you did recently for the very first time? Write about it.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe something you would do if you knew you couldn't possibly fail.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Many kids have a special blanket or stuffed animal they can't sleep without. Do you? Tell about it.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather be able to only whisper or only yell?

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you fell from the sky with a parachute,
where would you hope to land? Why?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you prefer living in a hot climate or a cold climate? Why?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write a story about what a rock climber found inside a secret cave.

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What is your favorite mode of transportation? Why?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe a dream your dog might have when he is sleeping.

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could lift and bring home one heavy object,
what would it be? What would you do with it?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe the leprechaun trap you would
build if you wanted a pot of gold.

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Imagine what might happen if a mouse became
the substitute teacher for a class of tiger cubs.

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

A stranger hands you a \$100 bill and tells you to do
a good deed with it. What do you do?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather go without books or video games for a month?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Who was your favorite coach, teacher, scout leader,
or Sunday school teacher? Why?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

When things feel scary or uncertain,
where do you go for comfort or security?

WriteShop® MARCH
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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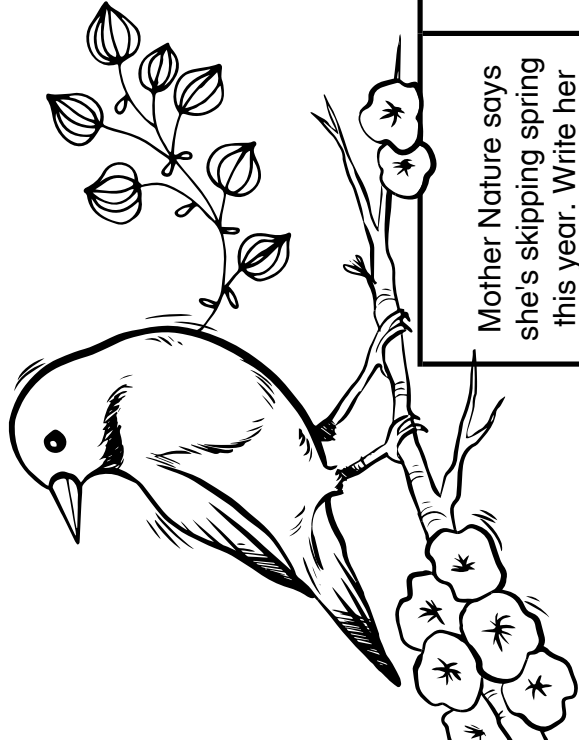
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APRIL

Writing Prompts

Mother Nature says she's skipping spring this year. Write her a letter in reply.	How would you spend a day with no electricity?	Would you rather explore a locked garden with overgrown weeds or a wild jungle known for quicksand?	Describe dinner where the table is a high-speed conveyor belt.	You are a spy who must smuggle a block of cheese into a foreign country. How will you do it?
What is one language you would like to learn? Why?	Describe your secret hideaway and tell what you would do there.	Imagine helium balloons could lift your house. Tell what happens next.	Describe the most boring day you've ever had, but make it sound not boring at all!	Write what you imagine a cat is thinking as she quietly sits and watches a bird.
What is your favorite color? List three adjectives to explain your choice.	Would you rather parachute from a plane, cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope, or sail around the world by yourself? Why?	How do April showers make you feel? What are your rainy day activities?	If you had the power to eliminate one thing from the world, what would you choose to get rid of? Why?	What would you do if you could be invisible for a day?
Would you rather look weak but actually be strong or look strong but actually be weak?	If your family didn't need to sleep, what would you do at night?	Describe a bad habit you'd like to break and how you could change your ways.	Would you rather eat healthily or exercise regularly? Why?	If you could be any animal in the world for 24 hours, which animal would you be? Why?



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MAY

Writing Prompts

Write a letter of thanks to your Congressman and explain an issue that is important to you.	Describe a Mother's Day gift that would make your mom or grandmother cry.	The citizens of Mismatched Sockville elected you Mayor. What laws will you enact?	Describe a picnic in springtime from an insect's point of view.	You must move to an island with only 10 items in your backpack. Explain your choices.
Find an old photograph and write a story about the picture.	Would you prefer an active job or a desk job? What sort of job might it be?	Should a time traveler wear boots or sandals? Why?	Write an ad for a brand-new hotel with the motto "No Beds - Hammocks Only."	Write about three things you most enjoy during springtime.
If you built a lizard cage out of toothpicks, what would it look like?	Write a paragraph about one of your favorite things to do when you have a free day.	Name one thing you couldn't live without. Explain why.	You are a pet. List 10 ways you might entertain yourself or your master.	Lava surfing is now a popular extreme sport! What are the rules?
Convince your grandparent to play your favorite video game with you.	Describe the strangest meal you ever ate.	What is the worst smell you have ever smelled? Describe the memory.	Name one important quality you look for in a friend. Explain.	Describe how you might celebrate a huge goal you have reached.

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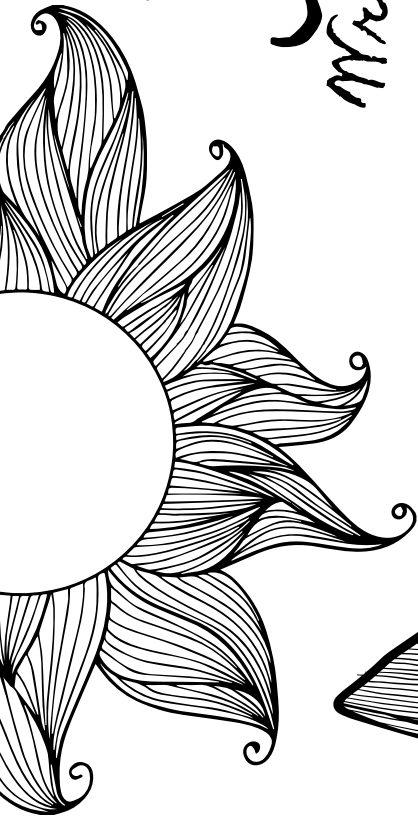
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JUNE

Writing Prompts

Describe your pet's experience if it went with you on a whitewater rafting trip.	Who was kind to you today? Explain how their words or actions made you feel.	If you could create your own website, what would it be for? Describe it.	Describe a surprise vacation your dad would love for Father's Day.	It's your birthday, and you can choose anything you want for dinner. Describe the meal.
Find a picture in a catalog or magazine and write a story about it.	If you could have a pet kangaroo, dolphin, or monkey, which would you choose? Why?	Would you rather live in a castle, houseboat, or jungle hut? Why?	You're entering a competition for "The Most Useless Talent." Describe your talent.	Would you rather give up salt or sugar for a year? Explain your choice.
What would your family say is your worst personality trait?	Describe your favorite time of day. What do you like to do best?	Sit outside and write down everything you hear, see, or smell.	Make a word bank of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs about summer nights.	Write about something that really bugs you.
You're invited to be part of a spaceship crew. How will you prepare?	Write a thoughtful action you will do for someone else today.	Would you rather be completely bald or have lettuce for hair? Why?	You receive an anonymous gift of \$500. What will you splurge on?	If you could be on a reality TV show, which one would you pick? Why?



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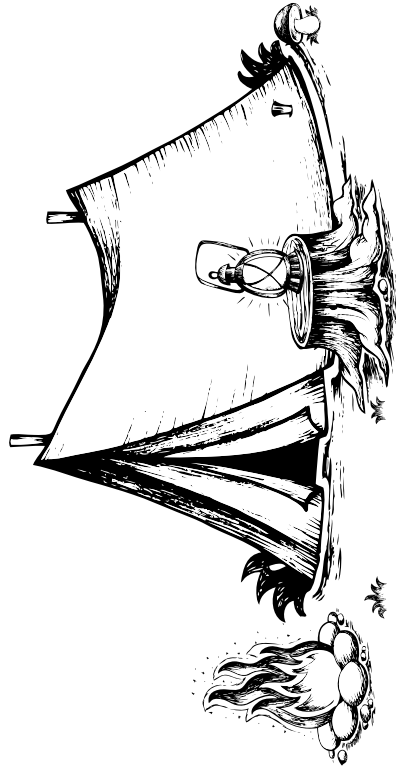
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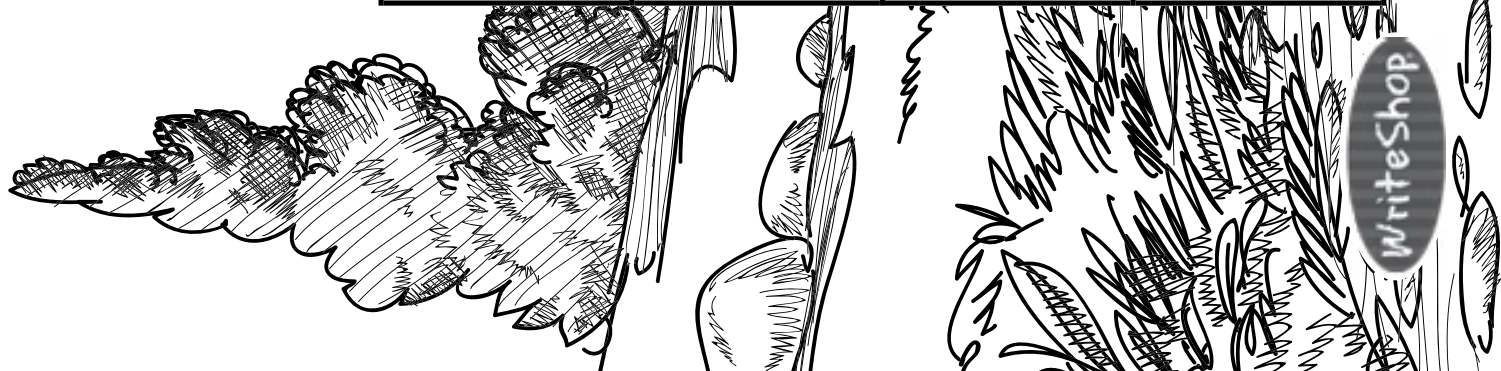
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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

JULY

Writing Prompts



Rewrite a favorite fairy tale with new characters.	If you had a goose that laid a golden egg each morning, what would you do?	Write about 5 activities you can do in the mountains.	Imagine you are a historian exploring an old mining camp. Describe what you discover.	Plan the menu of a pizza shop for zoo animals.
Imagine a backyard barbeque gone terribly wrong. Describe the disaster.	Make a list of 5 adjectives and 5 verbs that describe you.	An urgent message appears in the sky during a fireworks show. Tell the story.	Describe your most favorite pair of shoes ever.	Write about a problem, idea, invention, or activity that's often on your mind.
Try to recall a recent dream, and write every detail you can remember.	What junk and scraps would you use to build a robot from head to toe?	What are some after-school activities you enjoy? Describe them.	Would you rather start your life at 100 and grow younger or start as a baby and grow older? Why?	What are you most talented at? How do you use this talent?
Would you rather try sky diving or deep-sea diving? Explain why.	Make a list of 10 wacky, silly things to do when you're bored.	What do you think is the best feeling in the world? Write about it!	Make a list of 10 productive activities to do when you're bored.	Write a paragraph describing 5 things you like about your hometown.



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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What do you think is the best feeling in the world? Write about it!

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe your most favorite pair of shoes ever.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What are some after-school activities you enjoy? Describe them.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

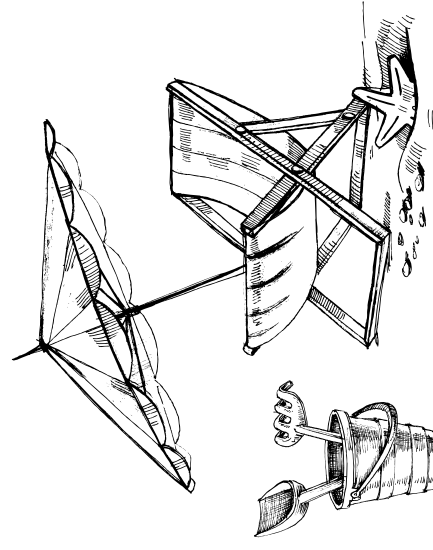
Would you rather try sky diving or deep-sea diving? Explain why.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

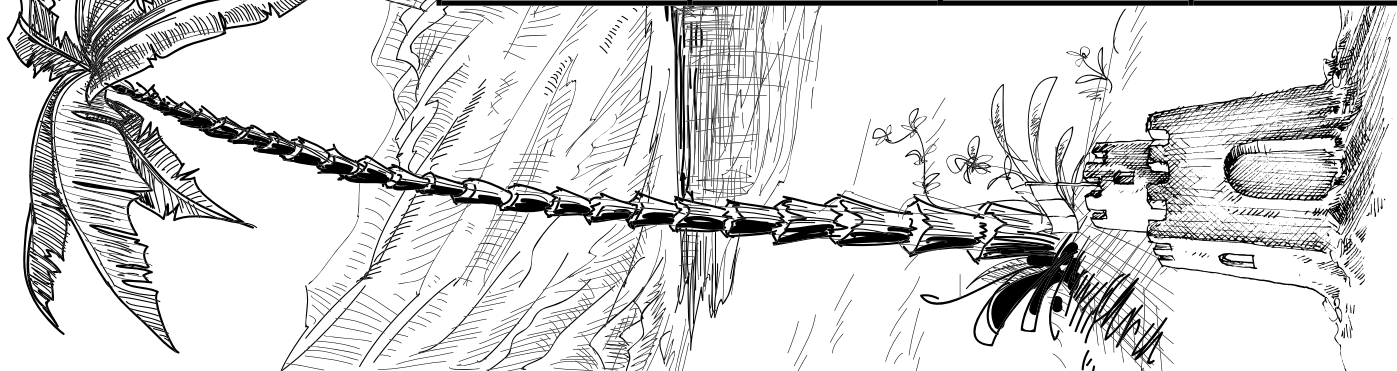


AUGUST

Writing Prompts



What would you write with a magic pen that could disguise your handwriting?	If you were a punctuation mark, what would it be, and why?	You are a medieval lord, building a new fortress. Describe the advantages & challenges of building with stone.	If kids could own cars, what car would you pick? Why?	On paper, describe the process of folding a piece of laundry, such as jeans or a T-shirt.
Write about something most people don't know about you.	Which would you choose to climb: Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty, or Mount Everest? Why?	Kids often get summer jobs. Did you? Tell about it. Or, describe a job you might like to have.	You can pick just one for your cabin: running water, electricity, or flushing toilet. Explain your choice.	Describe the oldest piece of clothing you still own and wear.
If you could go only to one restaurant for the next five years, which would it be? Why?	Tell a story in which you find a lost dog without a tag or license.	If you could only wear one color for the rest of your life, what color would you choose? Why?	Would you rather have 5 sisters or 5 brothers? Why?	Describe a new technology that might be in common use in 10 years.
While weeding the flower bed, your hoe hits something metal. Tell its story.	Congratulations! You won a trip around the world! What 3 countries will you want to visit? Why?	Create a dialogue between your new back-to-school pencils and your old pencils.	Describe one of your possessions that holds sentimental meaning for you.	Would you rather have a big birthday celebration or do something special with one friend?



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a magic pen that could
disguise your handwriting?

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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building a new fortress.
Describe the advantages
and challenges of building
with stone.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If you could go only to one
restaurant for the next five
years, which would it be?
Explain why.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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the process of folding a
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to climb: Eiffel Tower,
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your new back-to-school
pencils and your old pencils
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you find a lost dog without
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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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punctuation mark, what
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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Congratulations!
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August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe one of your treasured possessions that holds sentimental meaning for you.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather have a big birthday celebration or do something special with one friend? Explain your choice.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

If kids could own cars, what car would you pick? Why?

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

You can pick just one for your cabin: running water, electricity, or flushing toilet. Explain your choice.

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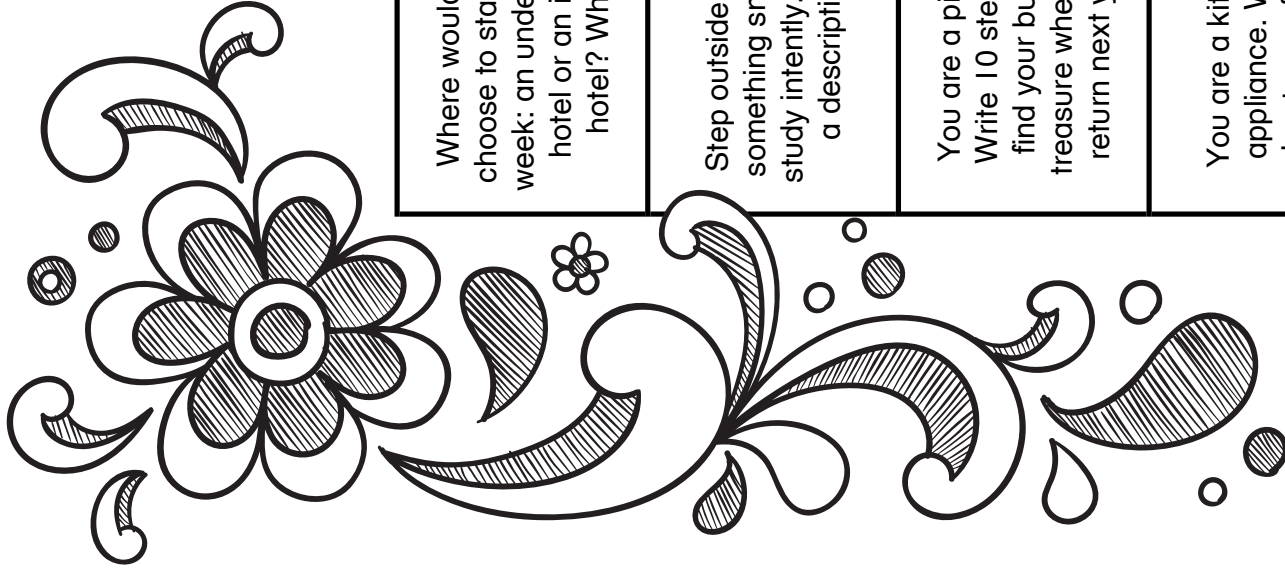
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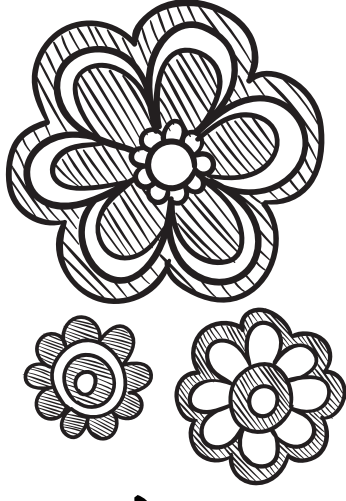
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WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary



SEPTEMBER

Writing Prompts



Where would you choose to stay for a week: an underwater hotel or an igloo hotel? Why?	Write a summer memory you never want to forget.	Write 3-4 ways you could store or use your old art projects from your years in Pre-K and first grade.	List at least 10 questions for an older family member.	What kind of business would you like to start? Describe your employees and customers.
Step outside. Find something small to study intently. Write a description.	If you lived 2000 years ago, which would be the best to own: a horse, a cow, or a dozen chickens? Why?	Would you rather be an otter or an eagle? Tell why.	When you are in a bad mood, is it easy for you to snap out of it? Why or why not?	For one year, would you rather go without electricity or running water?
You are a pirate. Write 10 steps to find your buried treasure when you return next year.	If you could be a movie or TV character, who would you be? Why?	September 25th is National Comic Book Day. Create a comic strip with at least 4 frames.	What's the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you? Tell the story.	Write about a time when you or a family member needed to use math in real life.
You are a kitchen appliance. Write about one of your experiences.	Would you rather live in space and visit Earth, or live on Earth and visit space? Why?	Create a word search puzzle using words from a recent history or science lesson.	Where did you live when you were five? Describe what you remember about that home.	Do you have a special or fancy pen or pencil you like to write with? Describe it.

Where would you choose to stay for a week: an underwater hotel or an igloo hotel? Why?

September

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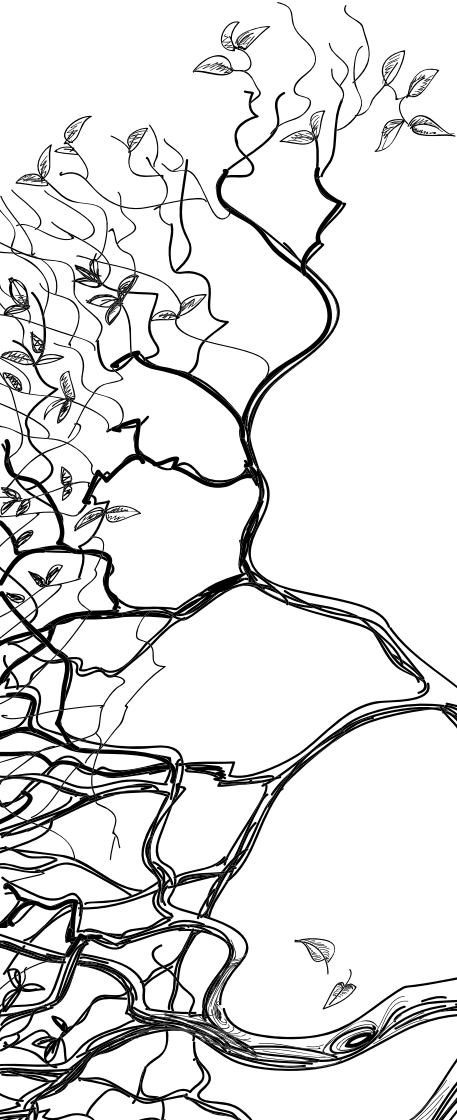
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WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
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OCTOBER

Writing Prompts

What's your favorite fall event? Explain why you look forward to it and how you take part.	Write a note to one of your parents using alliteration.	Write a comical paragraph from a circus animal's perspective titled "How to Pack a Picnic Lunch."	What historical time period would you most have liked to live in? Why?	List 3 careers that intrigue you. Then, list 5-10 questions you would like to know about each career.
Do you wish you were friendlier? Braver? More creative? Other? Why?	If you could spend a year in a foreign country learning a second language, where would you go and why?	Make a list of 10 things you might find in a junk drawer and how they got there.	What household chore do you hate the most? Make a list of 5 things you could do to make this chore a little more enjoyable.	Which is your favorite, and why: the night sky or the sky at sunset?
Finish this sentence and explain: When people look at me, they would never guess ____.	Write a brief summary or review of a movie you watched recently.	If you could be in the Guinness Book of World Records, what would you like to achieve?	Would you rather endure an earthquake or a hurricane? Tell three reasons why.	You have a frame that brings pictures to life. What will you frame? What will happen?
Describe the craziest outfit you can make using old dress-up clothes.	If you had a band, what would you name it? Describe the kind of music you would play.	Your dog is lost. Write an advertisement describing your pet.	Do you like being scared? If so, explain how being scared can sometimes be fun.	Write the steps to make a delicious salad.



What's your favorite autumn event? Explain why you look forward to it and how you take part.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

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WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Finish this sentence and
explain: When people look
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Your dog is lost. Write an
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If you had a band, what
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WriteShop® OCTOBER
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Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write the steps to make a delicious salad.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

NOVEMBER

Writing Prompts

Write a story that uses the line, "That's what you get when you invite something wild into your home."	Describe your favorite vehicle.	What are your greatest life goals and desires? What kind of person do you want to be?	Write a special memory of a family member.	What's the most interesting subject you've studied? Write 5 things you love about it.
Write a review of a restaurant you recently visited.	If you had unlimited money and space, what would you add to your bedroom? Explain.	How do you wake up in the morning? Describe what it's like to wake up.	Would you rather get from here to there in a sports car, helicopter, or rocket ship? Explain.	If I weren't scared to try, I would _____.
If you could live one year of your life over again, which year would you pick? Why?	Would herbivorous dinosaurs make good pets? Why or why not?	Would you rather be busy all day or relax all day? What would you do to fill your time?	If the turkey could talk, what would it say?	Write about something you lost and were greatly relieved when it turned up?
Write about something you lost but have still never found.	Finish this story in 5 sentences: <i>The strangest thing happened last week ...</i>	You have been hired to build a fancy birdhouse. Describe your design.	List ten negative things and give a reason to be thankful for each one.	Would you rather be famous or unknown? Why?

Write a story that uses the line, "That's what you get when you invite something wild into your home."

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

What are your greatest life goals and desires? What kind of person do you want to be?

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Describe your favorite vehicle.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Write a special memory of a family member.

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Write a review of a restaurant you recently visited.

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If I weren't scared to try, I would _____.

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What's the most interesting subject you've studied? Write five things you love about it.

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and space, what would
you add to your bedroom?
Explain your choices.

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Explain your decision.

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If you could live one year of
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How do you wake up in the morning? Describe what it's like to wake up.

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WriteShop® NOVEMBER
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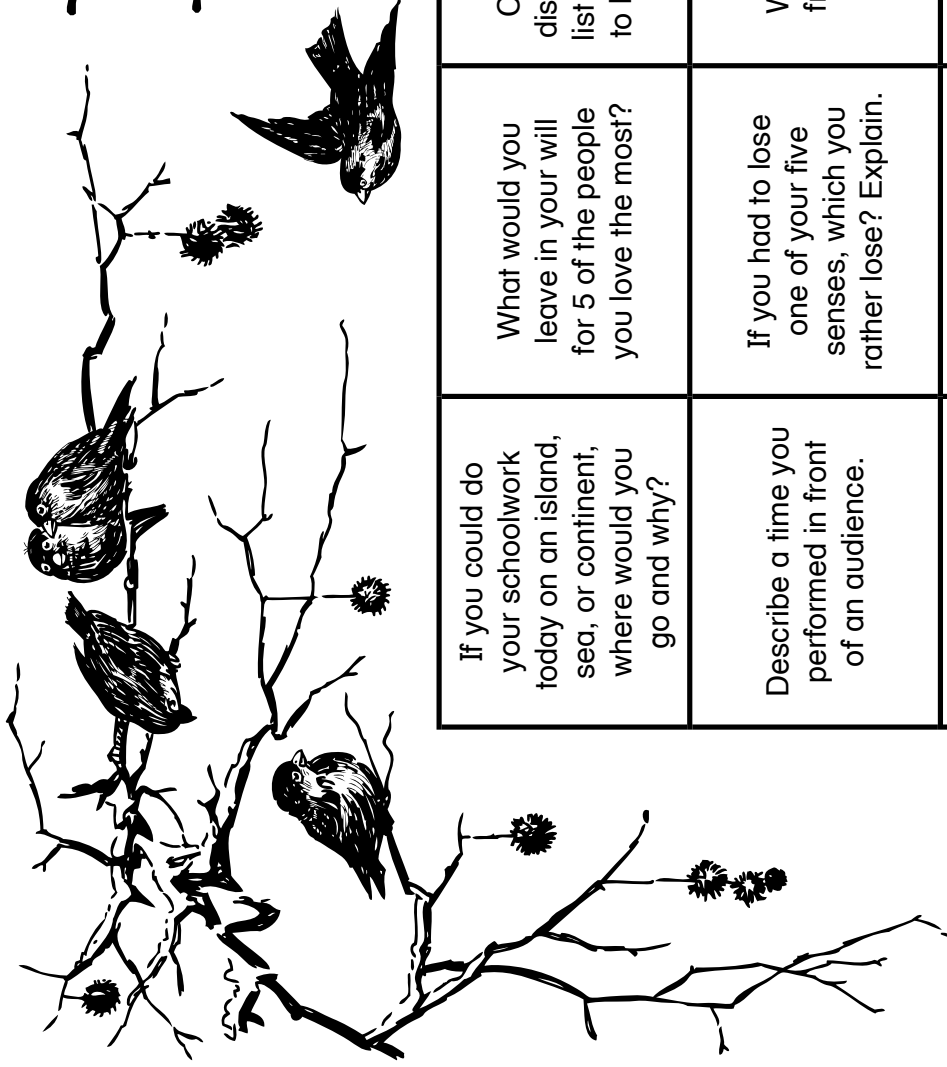
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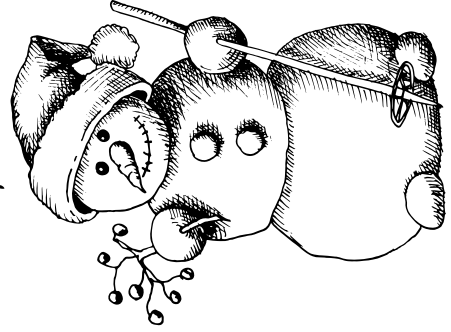
WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary



DECEMBER

Writing Prompts

If you could do your schoolwork today on an island, sea, or continent, where would you go and why?	What would you leave in your will for 5 of the people you love the most?	Choose a natural disaster and make a list of 10 things to do to be prepared for it.	Describe one item of clothing you would like to receive as a present.	If you could do one thing to attract attention, what would it be? Describe this scene.
Describe a time you performed in front of an audience.	If you had to lose one of your five senses, which you rather lose? Explain.	Who is your best friend? Describe him or her.	Would you rather play baseball, basketball, volleyball, hockey, or soccer?	Is there a story behind how you were named? What is it?
If you had to move out of this country, what country would you move to? Why?	List ten questions you would like to ask Santa's elves or Mrs. Claus.	What is one of the most fun things you and your family have done together?	Pick a current clothing trend and share your opinion on it.	December 18th is Bake Cookies Day. Describe your favorite cookie in detail.
Write a sincere compliment for a friend or family member.	How would someone learn what your favorite color is without being told?	If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?	Next month, you can only eat your 5 favorite foods. Explain your choices.	Would you rather spend a day at the beach or at a pool? Why?



WriteShop

If you could do
your schoolwork today
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December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Elementary

Would you rather play
baseball, basketball,
volleyball, hockey, or
soccer?

December

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List ten questions you
would like to ask Santa's
elves or Mrs. Claus.

December

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Pick a current clothing
trend and share your
opinion on it.

December

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Describe one item of
clothing you would like to
receive as a present.

December

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If you could change
one thing about the world,
what would it be?

December

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Describe a time
you performed in front of
an audience.

December

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December 18 is Bake
Cookies Day. Describe your
favorite cookie in detail.

December

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Choose a natural disaster
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to do to be prepared it.

December

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If you had to move out of
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