

Kindergarten Writing Prompts

Set 1 – BOY (Beginning of Year) Assessment

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| Stimulus for Writing: “What About Bear?” and “How to Be a Friend” |
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| Unit 1, Week 1 (McGraw-Hill), Big Book pages 4-34 and 35-40 |
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- ✓ Select just one prompt.
- ✓ Writing is to be done in one sitting and may include pictures, scribbles, letters, words, and/or sentences.
 - Pre-writing activities may be done in a separate session.
- ✓ Writing is to be done without help, but if a student cannot proceed:
 - Underlining any part of writing that was done with teacher support will facilitate evaluation later.
 - Writing down what student wanted to say in their writing will facilitate evaluation later.
- ✓ Students may use the classroom resources they typically use during writing (e.g., alphabet, word wall, etc.), but not a bank of words specifically created for this writing assessment.
- ✓ Use the type of writing paper that students are familiar with.
- ✓ If applicable, go over the rubric* (or parts of the rubric that will be used) with students before you begin.

*There are DSD genre rubrics and a DSD Developing Writer Progression chart that can be used to evaluate student writing.

Suggestions (Page 2 has more detailed suggestions for creating a context for students to do their best writing.)

- Review any graphic organizer created with your class and/or guide your class in a retelling of the events or key details using the Big Book/Retelling cards.
- Plan for a class discussion or partner talk to generate thoughts and ideas about the writing prompt.

Select just one prompt below:

Narrative Writing Prompt

Student Instructions:

We read and talked about “What About Bear?.” Think about a playtime with your friends. Who did you play with and what did you play? Write and draw about your playtime with your friends.

Opinion Writing Prompt

Student Instructions:

We read a story about Bear and his friends. Think about all of the fun things those friends did. (Show pages with the activities the characters did.) Which activity in the story do you think would be the most fun? Write and draw about that activity.

Informative/Explanatory Writing Prompt

Student Instructions:

We read and talked about “How to Be a Friend.” Think about what makes a good friend. What can you do to be a good friend? Write and draw about how you can be a good friend.

Creating a Context for Students to Do Their Best Writing

Narrative Writing Prompt Suggestions:

Revisit “What About Bear” stopping at pages where the characters are playing. Ask students to give a silent signal if they have ever played that activity. Provide students with opportunities to share about playtimes. Encourage them to use a sentence frame such as, “I _____ with a friend” as they talk.

Opinion Writing Prompt Suggestions:

Revisit “What About Bear.” Create a chart with students using a combination of writing and drawing that lists the activities in the book. Provide students with opportunities to share which one is their favorite. Encourage them to use a sentence frame such as, “_____ is the most fun” as they talk.

Informative/Explanatory Writing Prompt Suggestions:

Revisit “How to Be a Friend.” Create a chart with students using a combination of writing and drawing that lists the ways kindergartners can be a good friend. Provide students with opportunities to share how they can be a good friend. Encourage them to use a sentence frame such as, “I can be a good friend by _____” as they talk.