

Writing Prompts

for grades 2-4

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■ Introduce Yourself

Your teacher has just met you for the first time. Tell your teacher all about yourself. Tell how old you are. Tell her some things you like to do.

What is your name?

How old are you?

What is your favorite activity?

What are your hobbies?

■ Favorite Outdoor Activity

Your class is writing a book about outdoor activities for the school library. For your page in the book, pick your favorite outdoor activity to explain to your readers.

Tell why it is your favorite activity.

Tell any materials or equipment you may need to do the activity.

Tell why others would enjoy this activity.

Tell when and where you do this activity.

Tell what things you might need to do this activity.

Explain if you do this activity alone or with others.

Explain how you feel after having finished this outdoor activity.

■ I Learned How

Write a letter to your teacher. Write about one thing you have learned to do. Remember this should be a letter about something you have already learned. Maybe you learned it at home. Maybe it is something you learned at school. Think of one thing you learned to do, and tell your teacher all about it.

Describe what you learned to do.

Explain if it was hard or easy to do and give reasons.

Tell where you were and if anyone helped you.

Describe how you felt when you learned how to do it.

■ Favorite Game

Think about a game you like. It may be a board game, a card game, a recess game, a sporting game, a computer/video game, or some other game.

Explain how to play this game. Describe why you like to play this game. Give reasons that support why you like to play this game.

Describe the game for your reader.

Give reasons why this game is your favorite.

Explain each reason with detail.

Use vivid descriptions to make your writing more interesting to read.

■ Class Rules

Your teacher is not at school today and your class has a guest teacher. Think about the rules you have in your classroom. Decide the most important rule in your classroom.

Explain the rule to the guest teacher and explain why this rule is so important to your class. Write about what your day would look like if your class chose to follow this rule. Also, include what your day would be like if your class chose not to follow this rule.

■ Teacher for a Day

Suppose that you are the teacher of your class for one day. You may run the class your own way. Describe 3 activities you would use to help your students learn. Write about what happens on this day.

Describe what you teach in your classroom.

Explain what kind of things happened.

Be sure to give complete details for each activity.

■ Trading Places

You get to trade places with someone for one day. Who would you choose? This person should be someone you know a lot about. Explain who you would trade places. Give reasons with supporting details.

Explain who the person is.

Give reasons for choosing this person.

Describe what you think your day would be like.

Explain what you would do and how you think you would feel.

■ School Job

If you could do a job for one day in your school, what job would you choose? Why would you choose that job? What would be fun about it? What would make that job difficult? What would your day be like? Describe the school job that you would like to do. Explain why you would choose that job, what would be fun about it, and what would make it difficult. Describe what your day would be like.

■ Important Person

Think of one important person in your life. This could be someone younger or older. It could be a parent, friend, relative, teacher, or another person in your life. This should be someone you have met and know very well. Explain to your class why this person is so important to you. Write about how this person has made your life better.

■ Perfect Saturday

Most people look forward to the weekend. Pretend your parents allowed you to plan your perfect Saturday. Write to your parents explaining your plans for your perfect Saturday. Make sure your events and activities are possible and could really happen.

■ How to Succeed in Fourth Grade

HELP! Third graders in your school need some advice as they prepare for fourth grade. Write an informative essay to help these third graders to develop a plan for success.

Explain your plan for success.

Provide examples for your audience.

Explain why your plan will work.

■ A Great Gift

Everyone loves gifts. Think about a gift that you have received. Who gave you this gift? Why is this gift so wonderful? Think about what you would do with this gift? Maybe you play with it, look at it, wear it, or something else. Write a description of this gift and how you received it.

Identify the perfect gift.

Describe and give details about this gift.

Describe what you do with this gift.

Tell who gave you this gift.

Explain why this gift is so wonderful.

■ A Fun Family Activity

Your class is writing a book about fun family activities for the school library. You are going to add a page to the book, explaining one of your own family's activities. What is a fun activity that you remember doing with your family? Maybe you went somewhere? Maybe you did something at home? Think about what happened to make the event fun. Select one family activity and write all about it for the class book.

Describe the best activity you've done with your family.

Describe when and where this happened.

Describe all the people there with you.

Explain why this was a fun family activity.

■ A Special Pet

Some people prefer dogs while some like cats as their pets. Other people prefer birds, snakes, fish, rabbits, pigs, horses or other animals as their pets. What do you think would be the perfect pet to have? Describe in your writing your ideas about a perfect pet. Give plenty of details so that the person reading your writing can visualize your perfect pet and know details about it.

Explain why your pet is special.

■ Snow Day

Describe a perfect snow day. How would you spend the day? Explain what you would do in the morning, the afternoon, and then the evening.

■ A Special Meal

Write a story about a time when you experienced a wonderful meal. It may have been in a restaurant, in your own home, at a relative's house, church, or at a friend's house. The meal could have been part of a special celebration (birthday, Christmas, Thanksgiving, vacation, or something else). Describe the situation.... Tell what type of food you had, why that meal was so special, where you were, and who you were with.

Describe the different types of food you had.

Explain why this was a special meal for you.

Describe where the special meal took place and who you were with.

■ I/We Got Caught

Think about a time when you “got caught” doing something you shouldn’t have been doing. Maybe a teacher or a parent caught you. Maybe you were somewhere you shouldn’t have been. Maybe you weren’t the only one caught; maybe someone was with you. Your class is creating true stories to read aloud for parents’ night. These stories will entertain and inform the adult readers. Pick one time you remember getting caught. Write the story of how it all happened. Include as many vivid details as you can; make the reader feel like he was right there with you.

■ Best or Worst Day Ever

In between regular days, we all have best days and worst days. Some days everything goes right, and other days nothing goes right. Write a story about EITHER your best day OR your worst day ever.

Include a beginning, middle, and end in your writing.

Explain when and where this day happened.

Explain who might have been with you during this day.

Explain how you felt during this best/worst day.

Use details and descriptions within your story.

■ Celebration

Write a story about a holiday or celebration your family enjoyed.

Who was with you?

What did you do?

How did you feel?

■ Scared

Write a story about the scariest thing that ever happened to you.

Where were you?

Was anyone with you?

What were you doing?

What happened?

■ Magic Ring

Pretend you find a magic ring. Where did you find it? How did you find it? What does it look like? Think of the magical powers the ring has. Write a story about one adventure you have with your magic ring.

Explain how you found the magic ring.

Describe the magical powers of the ring.

Use vivid descriptions to describe an adventure you had.

■ Good Morning, Frog

You wake up one morning with dark green skin and flippers for feet. You have turned into a frog! Write a creative story for your classmates about the adventures you have that day. Think about where you would go and what you would do. Consider the dangers you might have faced that day and how you turned back into a human.

Describe what your classmates thought about you being a frog.

Describe any adventures or dangers you had that day.

Explain how you turned back into a human.

■ Secret Door

You walk to your classroom and find a secret door. You open it and walk through.

What happens?

Where are you?

Is anyone with you?

Explain how you return to the classroom.

■ A Day with a Friend

You and a friend are planning to spend the day together. Think about where you might go and things that you would like to do together. Write about the activities you would share with your friend. You can do anything real or imaginary. Have fun!

Describe the friend you would like to spend the day with and why you chose that friend.

Explain where you would spend the day.

Describe the activities you would share with your friend. Don't just list, but give details, or choose one idea and expand just that one idea.

Use action verbs and descriptive words to help the reader get a picture of you and your friend's day.

■ Theme Park

Suppose you could build your own theme park. Your budget is unlimited, so you can create any type of park you like. For example, the park could be a dude ranch, a movie studio, a historical village, or an underwater animal park. You want it to attract as many visitors as possible. What type of theme park would you open? Write an essay in which you describe the park, what visitors could see and do there, and why it would be an interesting place to go.

■ Family Dinner

You are going out to dinner with your family tonight, but your parents have selected a restaurant that you do not care for. Which one is it? Write a letter persuading your parents to take you to the restaurant of your choice... not theirs. Where do you want to eat tonight and why? Give several reasons in an attempt to change their minds. Be sure to include information that would help to convince your parents they would like your choice, too. Be sure to use strong opinion words to create a convincing argument and persuade your parents that your choice is best.

■ Extra Field Trip

Your principal has extra money for your class to take a one-day field trip. Think of a field trip idea that would be fun and interesting for the students, one that would also include some learning and education. Write a letter to your principal explaining where you would like to go. Be persuasive in your letter. Remember, you are trying to convince him/her to pick your field trip idea.

■ School Improvement

Your principal has asked students to think of a project that could be done to improve the school. What do you think? How could your school be improved? Write a letter to your principal that describes your idea and aims to persuade him/her that your project would be the best one to work on next. Give several reasons why your project would help your school. Be sure to use strong opinion words to create a convincing argument and persuade your principal that your project is best.

■ Spring Break

Convince the Kid Travel Company to pay for your Spring Break trip to wherever you would like to go.

■ Build a Snowman

You have been chosen to help a kindergartner build a snowman. The kindergartner has never made a snowman before.

Explain why you are building a snowman.

Explain how you will build a snowman.

Explain your ideas in logical steps.

■ Expert

Think of something you learned how to do. Teach the reader how to do it. Write a list of specific step-by-step directions.

■ Game Rules

Think of a favorite game you know how to play. Maybe it's a board game, video game, card game, recess game, or a game in PE. Explain how to play your favorite game to someone who has never played it before.