

WRITING PROMPTS - MASTER LIST

I've provided links so that original artists/sources may get credit. I've included links I feel are able to be used for a typical high school creative writing class, but please select appropriate prompts for your class. Links may contain images/words/lyrics/situations you find inappropriate for use - do not use those. I recommend previewing any link you may use to determine if it's appropriate for your class/situation.

Used SENTENCE STARTERS

What did they want?
She was there again.
Let's go.
The car was gone.
I looked out the window and saw...
Sometimes she/he/they just wished...
I had never seen anything like it before.
And then there was one.
I get it now.
Rose never knew what hit her.
Do you hear something?
By the time I reached the airport, he was gone.
Daniel had asked me to meet him at the corner.
The night sky was full of stars but no moon.
Lately, Marlene felt there was something missing from her life.
Gabriella had a secret.
Lady Luck was on my side.
I had to stay with my aunt and uncle for a while.
He'd finally done it.
Every time I heard that noise, it reminded me of....
The car stopped suddenly inside the tunnel.
John was tired of his job.
I'd never seen a storm like this before.
I looked out the window and saw
Little did she know
I'm a poem, and they never learned to read.
There was a creaking noise.
Nadia was lost.
She/He/They made the whole thing up.
Sam had never seen that before.
There was a conspiracy.
There are two types of people in this world. People who __ and people who __.
We sat down to eat.
Antonio knew the meaning of life.
Emilia was sure she was being followed.

The car got a flat tire.

I'd seen that dog before.

This song always made her/him/they _____.

They said the meteor would hit Earth sometime next week.

It was a full moon tonight.

And so it began.

Hello, and welcome to...

Well, that was new.

He/She/They could not find...

It was all coming to an end.

There was a knock on the door.

There was someone on the roof.

You get an email with the subject line: I know you've never heard of me, but I'm your uncle

Used CHARACTERS

How can you describe a character without using the words, "He smelled awful"?

How can you say a character has a square head without saying, "His head was shaped like a square"?

How can you say a character has a big nose without directly stating the nose is big/enormous/etc?

How can you describe a character's eyes without stating the basic colors of blue, green, brown, hazel?

How can you say a character has humongous ears without saying, "He has big ears"?

How can you say a character is an old guy without saying his age or that "He's an old guy"?

How can you describe someone as happy without saying they're smiling or are happy?

How can you describe someone as sad without saying they're sad, upset, or crying/frowning?

How can you describe someone as angry without yelling, screaming, "seeing red" or saying he was mad/angry/pissed/etc?

How can you describe someone wearing glasses without saying they're wearing glasses?

How can you say someone is claustrophobic without saying they are or "the walls are closing in"?

How can you describe someone as tired without traditional signals like yawning, rubbing eyes, etc?

How can you describe a little kid without saying their age/weight/height or little/small/tiny/etc?

How can you describe a character as loving unicorns without stating it outright, or saying they're all over her apartment/decoration/etc?

How can you say a person is bald without saying the words bald, no hair, or shiny head/scalp?

Used LOCATIONS

How can you describe a scary house without saying it's a "scary house" or a "Halloween house"?

How can you describe snow without saying it's white or cold?

How can you describe a regular street in a small town and make people know you're there, without saying "it's a small town" or something similar?

How can you describe a regular street in a busy inner city, and make people know you're there, without saying "it's a city" or something similar.

How can you describe a beach without using the words ocean, waves, rocks/rocky, sand, or sun?

How can you describe a forest without using the words trees, forest floor, foliage, or underbrush?

How can you describe a desert without using the words sand, brown, or cactus?

How can you describe the sky without saying the words blue, cloud/cloudy, overcast, or grey?

How can you say it's raining without saying it's raining, or rain fell from the sky, or similar?

How can you describe a night sky without focusing on the moon, stars, or blackness?

Used ANIMALS / OTHER

How can you describe a bulldog without simply stating “It was a bulldog”?
How can you describe an orange tabby without simply stating “It’s an orange tabby”?
How can you describe a horse without simply stating it’s breed/colors?
How can you describe a mug as unique without saying unique, handmade, antique, heirloom, or kitsch?
How can you describe an old Nintindo game without saying Nintindo or the name of the game/characters?
How can you describe an old cell phone without saying how old it is, or that it’s old/updated/etc?
How can you describe a quilt without using the words quilt or stitched?

Used SONGS to listen to:

The Lonely Shepherd	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qsgBF7ZIsk
Live version to show how	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orL-w2QBiN8
Axel theme song	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4kWpi2HnPU
Hot Butter – Popcorn	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK3ZP6frAMc
Diablo Rojo - Rodrigo y Gabriela	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw1o0or7_us

Used SONGS to watch:

Spark - Brian King Joseph	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE1LxL2ugBE
2 brothers cello (AGT)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X-1aa54KgA
Nostalgia - Yanni	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLd0-IDDAzU
Thunderstruck - 2 Cellos	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT3SBzmDxGk
A Flat - Black Violin	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gElVzWCRSg8
Kazoo final countdown	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3U36zas52wk

Used SHORT VIDEOS:

Derek Hough – Room	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw-8ofGXayA
Fighting Gravity	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL17hX8TS_M
Second performance	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7GLj8LIWm8 start at 1:52
Slow Motion crushing ball	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmjRMtN2zoA
Kenichi Eniba	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2edltPdP14
Line rider	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rlz3kIPET3o
Architects (SYTYCD)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_BiJFmzHbA
Green Lawn	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W92Ux9GKAI
Try to fix you	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do2vmsmdwlk
The Maker (violin)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDXOioU_OKM
Oddly satisfying vid	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0NISZnwBaQ
Bryan Reagan: Boxen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkrMsPiqG6M
Inception cat	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLDSE7RHvno
Stalking cat	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzzjgBAaWZw

Rowan Air Drumming	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_kloG2Z7tU
Lava eats car	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqRDaHnRzLI
Cat vs. apple	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx6rnw-Gx30
Ball of matchsticks	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jxRnodaKzE start at 1:20
Pallas cat	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIXw-3H48yU
Sassy bird walk	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYJB0zyjt70
Best pirate I've ever seen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLjS4B00tl0
Frozen methane bubbles	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1Hb1obxqsg
Explanation of frozen bubbles	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxnOPyrqKoY&t=6s
Convos with my 2 year old	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdtD19tXX30&disable_polymer=true
Dueling Carls (high voice)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-7mQhSZRqM
Yosemite rainbow waterfall	https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/yosemite-falls-rainbow
Wave touching the sky	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWYtiK1_YU0
Slomo Water Effects	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVx-PFkDf_E
Stuntman on another level	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyoevJmcRYI
Transfiguration by Universal Everything	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy9M0gynZNE
Remote controlled Robot fighting	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu9aa-cgJ0w
Pug riding skateboard	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kILWk7WE0HA
Groundhog sports	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX4oFxT8F-s
Octopus kites	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqUsh-JqWbg
Ferrets playing in peanuts	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkeVjkUKwF4
Dinosaur demolition	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EojIzcWJhoM
Acroarmy (AGT)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7tUDf2ykGY
Bernie Bergan (wheelchair)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ba36UTRwFg
40 year old hip hop (check song lyrics)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOLQBUI-rdI
Dining room rock	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4eo6LS9Ito
Cat mirror? (last 2 seconds)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm1aWsQgfNo
Go away crocodile	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0IUoOzxAF0
Blanket wind dancing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln4qfVPJDZY
Trying to have a picnic	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyz8kORGsfA
Facial singing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCJM3LnJb0
Turtleneck and blazer	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDqJBGUtGmc
Arizona hail storm	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuMX9AM9BrE (stop at 1 min)
Yixing clay teapot	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p7ohcMS7RE
Murmuration	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY
Sand kinetic sculpture	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZePhxfXIns
Snake climbing a tree	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_K-XZPyOfM
20 weird medical facts	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5qIO2kL9-E

Used HOLIDAY THEMED SONGS/VIDEOS

New Year's Resolutions - The Office <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvJUf6LHILk>

Merrell Twins - Valentine's Day https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytMPI_6iw9o stop at 3:42

Gardiner Brothers - St Patrick's Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8gVXz8ZIHI>

Attic Panic (Halloween) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjck1TNXXhI>

 Closet Space (Halloween) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fje6_ou5RY

Helpful demon (Halloween) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9opIT3-h_0

Turkey reporter (Thanksgiving) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDNnNmghNI>

Christmas tree jingle bells <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AUE4ZrMltI>

Christmas light house show <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GufRiBUZQPc>

Clean Christmas Vines <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFKK9AmrSb0>

Haunting Jingle Bells <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OmYxFWN5wU>

Used PICTURES (each website has so many images to choose from, you might want to keep a list of the images you've used on each site to ensure there are no repeats.)

Surreal images (royalty free to use). Some of my favorites to show are surreal images because it really gets the students into their imagination. Choose images with care, as not all available may be appropriate to show. I always include one surreal image on the first day of writing prompt to get students into the feel of writing from the purely creative.

<https://pixabay.com/images/search/surreal/>

Another surreal (royalty free to use) site. Same advice as above.

<https://depositphotos.com/stock-photos/surreal.html>

Last surreal site - same advice as above (definitely has some inappropriate images, but some great to use ones like The Path, A Break in Reality).

<https://speckyboy.com/surreal-world-an-outstanding-collection-of-surreal-art/>

Beautiful shots in Europe. This site has quite a few I've used in the past.

<https://www.europeanbestdestinations.com/top/most-beautiful-landscapes-in-europe/>

Beautiful shots of abandoned locations throughout Europe. I've used quite a few.

<https://www.europeanbestdestinations.com/top/best-abandoned-places-in-europe/>

Artist that does mechanical animals: <https://www.andrewchase.com/>

I prefer to use the wolf howling shot, scroll down: <https://www.andrewchase.com/#/wolf/>

Londoners browse a bombed out library during WWII.

<https://flashbak.com/london-library-miraculously-survives-blitz-1940-416988/>

Amazing, strange, real images.

https://www.boredpanda.com/interesting-rarely-seen-things/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Inverted World image (scroll down and center main image):
<https://www.3develop.nl/blog/inverted-world-map-blue-marble/>

Artist Dain Yoon (not all images are appropriate, pick and center the one you'd like to use):
<http://dainyoon.com/dain-yoona-illusion-art-works/illusion-works/>

Cat faces on other animals, a thread of images (through facebook):
<https://www.facebook.com/RealPenguinOfficial/posts/today-i-am-laughing-uncontrollably-at-cat-faces-put-on-other-animals-please-enjo/3723709564363181/>

Sigoldugljufur waterfall in Iceland:
<https://adventures.is/iceland/attractions/sigoldugljufur-canyon/>

Training danxia hanging temple, China (from ILP, a non-profit trip abroad site):
<https://blog.ilp.org/hengshan-hanging-temple-in-datong-china>

Really long hallways with fancy or bold decorations:
<https://laurelberninteriors.com/2020/08/02/a-long-narrow-hallway-help-for-a-dark-scary-mess/>

Crinkle-crackle wavy wall in England (boredpanda article):
https://www.boredpanda.com/wavy-crinkle-crankle-walls/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Stained glass cosplay costume (by costumeartist)
<https://costumeartist.wordpress.com/2014/09/10/the-stained-glass-costume-project-abbey-at-dragoncon/>

Rakotzbrucke (the devils bridge) in Rhododendron Park, Kromlau Germany
<https://www.earthtrekkers.com/rakotzbrucke-fairytale-bridge-saxony-germany/>

Michigan ice storm (by Daily Mail)
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2534548/Michigan-lighthouse-transformed-giant-icicle-freezing-storm.html>

Heterochromia eye pictures (by All About Vision)
<https://www.allaboutvision.com/ask-the-doc/heterochromia/>

Kauai, Nepali coast (from Wikipedia -I like using the pics on the side, arial or boat, make full screen)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C4%81_Pali_Coast_State_Park

Crin/Maned Wolf (by National Zoo)
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/maned-wolf>

Used PICTURES: all are made/taken/owned by me and free to use for creative writing inspiration purposes (cannot sell/use for monetary gain). There's about one per page - scroll down





























