

## 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 Nintendo game without saying Nintendo 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/outdated/etc?  
How can you describe a quilt without using the words quilt or stitched?

### **Used SONGS to listen to:**

The Lonely Shepherd	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qsgBF7ZlSk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qsgBF7ZlSk</a>
Live version to show how	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orL-w2QBiN8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orL-w2QBiN8</a>
Axel theme song	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4kWpi2HnPU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4kWpi2HnPU</a>
Hot Butter – Popcorn	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK3ZP6frAMc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK3ZP6frAMc</a>
Diablo Rojo - Rodrigo y Gabriela	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw1o0or7_us">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw1o0or7_us</a>

### **Used SONGS to watch:**

Spark - Brian King Joseph	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE1LxL2ugBE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE1LxL2ugBE</a>
2 brothers cello (AGT)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X-1aa54KgA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X-1aa54KgA</a>
Nostalgia - Yanni	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLd0-IDDAzU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLd0-IDDAzU</a>
Thunderstruck - 2 Cellos	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT3SBzmDxGk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT3SBzmDxGk</a>
A Flat - Black Violin	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEIVzWCRSg8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEIVzWCRSg8</a>
Kazoo final countdown	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3U36zas52wk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3U36zas52wk</a>

### **Used SHORT VIDEOS:**

Derek Hough – Room	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw-8ofGXayA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw-8ofGXayA</a>
Fighting Gravity	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL17hX8TS_M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL17hX8TS_M</a>
Second performance	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7GLj8LIWm8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7GLj8LIWm8</a> start at 1:52
Slow Motion crushing ball	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmjRMtN2zoA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmjRMtN2zoA</a>
Kenichi Eniba	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2edltPdP14">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2edltPdP14</a>
Line rider	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIz3kIPET3o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIz3kIPET3o</a>
Architects (SYTYCD)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_BiJFmzHbA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_BiJFmzHbA</a>
Green Lawn	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W92Ux9GKAI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W92Ux9GKAI</a>
Try to fix you	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do2vmsmdwlk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do2vmsmdwlk</a>
The Maker (violin)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDXOioU_OKM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDXOioU_OKM</a>
Oddly satisfying vid	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0NISZnwBaQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0NISZnwBaQ</a>
Bryan Reagan: Boxen	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkrMsPiqG6M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkrMsPiqG6M</a>
Inception cat	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLDSE7RHvno">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLDSE7RHvno</a>
Stalking cat	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzzjgBAaWZw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzzjgBAaWZw</a>

Rowan Air Drumming	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_kloG2Z7tU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_kloG2Z7tU</a>
Lava eats car	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqRDaHnRzLI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqRDaHnRzLI</a>
Cat vs. apple	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx6rnw-Gx30">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx6rnw-Gx30</a>
Ball of matchsticks	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jxRnodaKzE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jxRnodaKzE</a> start at 1:20
Pallas cat	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIXw-3H48yU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIXw-3H48yU</a>
Sassy bird walk	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYJB0zyjt70">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYJB0zyjt70</a>
Best pirate I've ever seen	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLjS4B00ti0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLjS4B00ti0</a>
Frozen methane bubbles	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1Hb1obxqsg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1Hb1obxqsg</a>
Explanation of frozen bubbles	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxnOPyrqKoY&amp;t=6s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxnOPyrqKoY&amp;t=6s</a>
Convos with my 2 year old	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdtD19tXX30&amp;disable_polymer=true">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdtD19tXX30&amp;disable_polymer=true</a>
Dueling Carls (high voice)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-7mQhSZRgM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-7mQhSZRgM</a>
Yosemite rainbow waterfall	<a href="https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/yosemite-falls-rainbow">https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/yosemite-falls-rainbow</a>
Wave touching the sky	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWYtiK1_YU0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWYtiK1_YU0</a>
Slomo Water Effects	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVx-PFkDf_E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVx-PFkDf_E</a>
Stuntman on another level	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyoevJmcRYI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyoevJmcRYI</a>
Transfiguration by Universal Everything	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy9M0gynZNE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy9M0gynZNE</a>
Remote controlled Robot fighting	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu9aa-cgJ0w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu9aa-cgJ0w</a>
Pug riding skateboard	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kILWk7WE0HA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kILWk7WE0HA</a>
Groundhog sports	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX4oFxT8F-s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX4oFxT8F-s</a>
Octopus kites	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqUsh-JqWbg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqUsh-JqWbg</a>
Ferrets playing in peanuts	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkeVjkUKwF4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkeVjkUKwF4</a>
Dinosaur demolition	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoJlzcWJhoM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoJlzcWJhoM</a>
Acroarmy (AGT)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7tUDf2ykGY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7tUDf2ykGY</a>
Bernie Bergan (wheelchair)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ba36UTRwFg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ba36UTRwFg</a>
40 year old hip hop (check song lyrics)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOLQBUI-rdI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOLQBUI-rdI</a>
Dining room rock	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4eo6LS9lto">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4eo6LS9lto</a>
Cat mirror? (last 2 seconds)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmlaWsQgfNo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmlaWsQgfNo</a>
Go away crocodile	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToIUoOzxAF0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToIUoOzxAF0</a>
Blanket wind dancing	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln4qfVPJDZY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln4qfVPJDZY</a>
Trying to have a picnic	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyz8kORGsfA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyz8kORGsfA</a>
Facial singing	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCJM3LnJb0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCJM3LnJb0</a>
Turtleneck and blazer	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDqJBGUtgmc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDqJBGUtgmc</a>
Arizona hail storm	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUMX9AM9BrE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUMX9AM9BrE</a> (stop at 1 min)
Yixing clay teapot	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p7ohcMS7RE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p7ohcMS7RE</a>
Murmuration	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY</a>
Sand kinetic sculpture	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZePhxfXlms">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZePhxfXlms</a>
Snake climbing a tree	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_K-XZPyOfM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_K-XZPyOfM</a>
20 weird medical facts	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5qIO2kL9-E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5qIO2kL9-E</a>

## **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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytMPI_6iw9o) stop at 3:42  
Gardiner Brothers - St Patrick's Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8gVXz8ZIHl>  
Attic Panic (Halloween) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjck1TNXXhI>  
Closet Space (Halloween) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fje6\\_ou5RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fje6_ou5RY)  
Helpful demon (Halloween) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9opIT3-h\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9opIT3-h_0)  
Turkey reporter (Thanksgiving) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDNnNmqqhNI>  
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](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-yoons-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](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/>

Rakotzbrücke (the devils bridge) in Rhododendron Park, Kromlau Germany

<https://www.earthtrekkers.com/rakotzbrücke-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, Napali coast (from Wikipedia -I like using the pics on the side, aerial or boat, make full screen)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C4%81\\_Pali\\_Coast\\_State\\_Park](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>



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