

Writing Prompts for 3rd-5th Graders

These are the steps that the best writers follow:

1. Prewrite – Use whatever works, depending on the type of writing. Could be a list, a chart, a critical thinking map
2. Rough Draft
3. Edit
 - Correct grammar and spelling mistakes.
 - Rewrite sentences that don't make sense.
 - Replace boring words like "good" or "fun" with exciting descriptive words like "amazing" and "tremendous."
4. Parent edit
5. Final Copy – Alternate between typing and writing the final copy by hand

Writing Prompts:

- "One bright sunny morning, I awoke to find my bed floating in mid-air! It didn't take me long to realize that gravity had disappeared!" Write about what happened that day.
- Write about why summer is the best season. (Or fall, winter, or spring!)
- Write about three qualities of a good friend.
- Write about your favorite person from history, and tell why you think that person was a hero.
- Describe your favorite place to go on vacation.

- Does your family have any Christmas traditions? Write about how your family celebrates Christmas.
- Write how to cook or prepare your favorite food.
- Write about how to have a healthy diet.
- Tell about the best day you ever had.
- What three super hero powers would you like to have? Write about them and tell why you would want those powers.
- “One afternoon, I sat down to do my homework and discovered that my pencil was magical!” Write about what happened.
- Describe your bedroom.
- Should kids have to go to bed at a particular time? Why or why not?
- Tell about your favorite family memory – an event, a trip, something funny that happened, a relative coming to visit, etc.

- Write a story as though you were the family pet. What is life in your home like as the pet?
- Should people in your city be required to recycle? Why or why not?
- Imagine that you could go back in time. Write a story about your adventure to the past.
- What is the best gift that you could receive that money can't buy? (In other words, not a physical thing.)
- Imagine that you were just handed one million dollars. What three things would you spend it on and why?
- Could dragons be real? Why or why not?
- Write about what you plan to do when you grow up.
- Write a story about travelling to space.

- Describe a friend or a family member. Describe that person's character and personality as well as how they look.
- What should be done with kids who choose to bully others? What would help them learn to treat people the right way?
- Write a story about going to work with Dad. Imagine that you were suddenly put in charge of the entire company. What would you do? What decisions would you make? (If that idea doesn't apply, write about becoming principal of your school.)
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- Write about your worst day ever. Or, make up an imaginary worst day ever with all of your biggest nightmares coming true!
- Choose a fairytale, and write a totally new ending for it! Or, write about what happened after the "happily ever after."
- Write about waking up one morning in a foreign country. You can't speak the language at all. What do you do? What adventures do you have?

- What accomplishment in your life made you feel the most proud? Why?
- Would you rather spend a vacation in the mountains or on the beach? Compare these two types of vacations and tell why you would choose the one that you like best.
- Tell about the scariest thing that has ever happened to you.
- Describe the best Halloween costume you ever wore.
- Write about what manners are important for kids your age to have. Choose three places that kids go, and tell what manners and behavior kids should have at each place.
- Describe the most fun birthday party you've ever been to (can be your own party).
- If you could become President of our country for a day, what changes would you make and why?

- Imagine that your pet was suddenly able to talk! What things does he/she say?

What happens?

- Write a story about helping to solve a crime.
- If you could have any talent (singing, playing an instrument, being a star basketball player, etc.) what would it be? How would you use your talent?
- Write how to prepare for your favorite holiday. What things need to be done?