

CREATIVE WRITING AND READING PROMPTS

1. Tell bad drivers, rude customers, and evil dictators how grateful you are for what they've done.



2. Read: 'He Tells Her' by Wendy Cope. Ask the students to describe a time when they were right about something but someone told them they were wrong.

*He tells her that the Earth is flat—
He knows the facts, and that is that.
In altercations fierce and long
She tries her best to prove him wrong.
But he has learned to argue well.
He calls her arguments unsound
And often asks her not to yell.
She cannot win. He stands his ground.

The planet goes on being round.*

3. Re-write 'This Is Just To Say' by William Carlos Williams.

*I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox*

*and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast*

*Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold*

4. Write about what you would do at night if you didn't need to sleep - would you be lonely? Would you miss dreaming? Would you ever feel tired?



5. The Vessel: Write about a ship or other vehicle that can take you somewhere different from where you are now.



6. Write about something that grows or lives in an unexpected place, like in 'The Rose That Grew From Concrete' - Tupac Shkur.

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet. Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

7. Non-fiction: Write about a room you know well. What's in it, does it have a smell? How do you feel when you enter it? Is it a safe space, a happy one? Who else is in there?



8. A child's imaginary friend needs to convince them he's real so he doesn't disappear.



9. Write about something you can't control, from the perspective of that thing.



10. 5,000 years into the future, how has technology affected the evolution of humankind?



11. An innocent tweet about your breakfast spirals out of control, when a police squad arrests you for treason...



12. It was the 25th of May when the clocks stopped. They needed more time. *Continue...*



13. Your hair, features and skin are gradually disappearing. What do you see when you look in the mirror?



14. Write a poem using three of the following words:

expensive

lampshade

bruise

convincing



15. Write a poem in the form of a message or letter to your future self.



16. Write a poem about yourself in which nothing is true.



17. Write a poem in rhyming couplets about three wishes.



18. Write instructions for:

how to cry



19. Write instructions for:

dreaming



20. Write instructions for:

peeling a peach



21. Short story idea:

A campfire, a scream, and a small lie that gets bigger and bigger



22. Short story idea:

An iPhone, a glove and a half eaten sandwich...



23. Short story idea:

*The first day of school, a love note,
and a recipe with a significant
mistake...*



24. Write a scene of dialogue between your present self and your future self.



25. Write a scene of dialogue
between *[insert historical figure]*
and *[insert historical figure]*



26. Write down as many words as you can in 5 minutes describing a person's voice *e.g. wobbly, thin....*



27. Write down as many words as you can describing sleep *e.g. deep, restless...*



28. How many words can you think of instead of writing '*said*'?



29. Synonym
Snap! Mix these
words up and
make pairs,
using a
dictionary to
help.

centre	hear	stare	fight	pull
present	halt	fast	hurt	creek
damp	lump	paste	get	dislike
paw	hate	fire	grin	stream
lost	wait	receive	big	stay
listen	blaze	quick	little	lid
missing	unhappy	glue	sad	harm
wet	gift	foot	rush	pick
hurry	strange	choose	gaze	
middle	battle	silly	small	
chunk	tow	odd	smile	
stop	funny	cover	large	

30. Point of View: A character is moving to another city. They visit their favourite public place and see something that makes them want to stay. Describe this in 500 words, using third person POV (he/she). Then rewrite in first person, using 'I'.



31. Read this out loud, it's so satisfying!

This sentence has five words.

Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety.

Now listen.

I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length.

And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals— sounds that say listen to this, it is important.

32. Shakespeare: You are trying to convince someone to go out with you from directly below his or her balcony. What do you say and how do you "proclaim your love?"



33. Dinner party: choose three characters from a play or book you are studying and have them sit around a dinner table making polite talk with one another. What do they talk about, are they happy to be there? What's going on inside their heads?



34. You're standing in a field in front of a huge hole. You can't see the bottom, so you lean right over. Suddenly you lose your footing and begin to fall and fall and fall. Describe what you're thinking after 5 minutes of falling. What about after an hour? A day?



35. You're on a train, trundling through the city or countryside. You enter a tunnel when suddenly the lights turn out, plunging you into total darkness. Then, seconds later, you leave the tunnel and the light returns. What do you see?



36. Describe the process of eating your favourite food as if talking to someone who has never heard of it (for example, first take your fork and stab it into the edge of the spaghetti, then begin to rotate it slowly)



37. Describe someone you know really well in the style of a recipe.



38. Think about a small object that means a lot to you. Begin to describe it. Imagine first that you are looking at it. Then, pick it up. Describe its weight, size, texture, maybe even its smell or taste. Use all five senses to describe the object.



39. What does Time look like? How does Time spend its time? What is its favourite thing to do?



40. "Readers are plentiful, thinkers are rare" This is a portrait of Harriet Martineau; she is considered one of the first female social theorists. What do you think she meant by this quote?



41. An alien is planning a trip to earth and has asked you for advice. What three things would you tell it (this could be a place to go, something to eat, or explaining a human trait)



42. There's been a box in the middle of the city for as long as you can remember. No one ever talks about it and you're beginning to wonder what it's there for. Describe the box.



43. Think about two characters from a book or play you are studying. Imagine they're emailing each other. What would they say?



44. What does the truth look like?
What colour is it? What can it see?
What is it thinking about now??



45. You live in a world where pictures have always been in color and only turn sepia when someone is dying before going black and white after they've passed. One day, you notice that some of your pictures have started getting their colour back... finish the story



46. You've got a super-power which means you don't feel pain and your body repairs itself if it gets hurt. You've taken up a job as a test dummy for products that could cause harm to others if faulty. Write about your daily life.



47. A serial killer pretending to be a Door-to-Door salesman knocks on the door of a serial killer who kills Door-to-Door salesmen. What happens next?



48. Describe the events leading up to this photograph:



49. Everyone always feared the day that the sun would go out, but no one was prepared for the night the moon disappeared... What happened next?



50. They say good literature should be timeless. So remove time. Write a story set in the void.



51. You're a scientist who has just discovered a brand new type of flower. Describe it using as many senses as possible.



52. You, a time traveller, accidentally introduced twenty-first century slang to Shakespeare. Rewrite one of his sonnets or soliloquies using modern slang.



53. There is a gate in the middle of an empty field, with a sign saying 'please close the gate behind you'. One day, you walk past and see the gate has been left open - what is on the other side of the gate?



54. Look out of the window and describe the weather in one word. Now write a letter to your head teacher to convince them to let you have a snow-day, even though it isn't snowing.



55. Write a recipe for the best thing to do on a cold day.



56. Imagine you are part of one of those original Globe Theatre audiences for a Shakespeare play. What is it like? How does it smell? What's the atmosphere like, are people enjoying the play or heckling?



57. Finish the following sentence in as many different ways as possible in the next 2 minutes:

Winter wind is like _____



58. You are the team captain of a snowball fight. Write down your half-time speech.



59. You're giving the concept of imagination as a gift to your best friend. Describe the process of wrapping this present.



60. Describe the journey from your bedroom to your nearest Christmas tree in the style of a travel writer.

