

YWP Prompts for 2009-2010

Teachers and students are encouraged to participate in Young Writers Project by submitting best work done in class or outside of school or by responding to one or both of each week's prompts. These prompts were gleaned from hundreds of ideas suggested by teachers and students. Post work by creating an account and creating an entry on youngwritersproject.org. Deadlines are Friday afternoons; work is selected and published in your local newspaper within several weeks. Students are encouraged to send best photos as well. Info on youngwritersproject.org under CREATE>>Images.

The prompts for the rest of the year:

4. General Writing Submit best non-prompt general writing you have created. This call for general entries is repeated each month and you can use the same "general" term when submitting each time. Deadline: Oct. 2.

5. Ghosts. Do you believe in ghosts? Have you seen one? Tell us a ghost story. Make one up if you want, but make it believable. *Alternate: Favorite character.* Choose your favorite character from a book or movie and place them in a different story. Deadline: Oct. 9.

6. Object. Write about one object that defines you – or someone you know. Tell a story about why it is important to you (or them). Describe it from as many perspectives as possible. *Alternate: The bus.* Write a story that takes place on a bus. Deadline: Oct. 16.

7. The kitchen table. What happens at your kitchen table? Tell a story about a memorable moment at that table. If you don't have a table, or feel so inclined, create a fictionalized narrative of something happening at the kitchen table. *Alternate: Door.* Use these words in a story or poem: "I reached the door and knocked loudly ..." Deadline: Oct. 23.

8. General. Submit best non-prompt general writing you have created. This call for general entries is repeated each month and you can use the same "general" term when submitting each time. *Alternate: Hunting.* Share your favorite hunting stories, or tell us how you feel about hunting. Deadline Oct. 30.

9. Sibling rivalry. Write a story about how you compete with a brother or sister. If you don't have a sibling, write about what it's like to be the lone child. *Alternate: Anger.* Rant about something that really ticks you off. Deadline: Nov. 6.

10. Winter Tales. Tell a story about winter; it can focus on the season or the holidays – the weather, the outdoors, or the emotions. A dozen selections will be given dramatic presentations by *Vermont Stage Company* in early December. Deadline: Nov. 13.

11. School. What experiences in school really engaged you? Deadline: Nov. 20.

12. Super powers. You've been granted powers never thought possible. What are they and what will you do with them? *Alternate: Excuses.* Write an excuse as to why you didn't do something that is so outrageous and funny we have to accept it. Deadline: Nov. 27.

13. General. Deadline: Dec. 4

14. An elder's story. Interview someone in an older generation — a family member or community member — and get from them a story you've never heard before. Re-tell that story. Focus on details and the most memorable moment; 400 words. You can fictionalize the story if you'd like. No real names needed. *Alternate: The big win.* Write about a time when you won big. Deadline Dec. 11.

15. Lost. Tell a story about losing something or getting lost. Write a story or poem about how you feel or how someone else felt because of a loss. *Alternate: Utopia.* What does your utopia look like? Provide images if you'd like. Deadline: Dec. 18.

16. Stuck. Describe a time when you found yourself in a tight spot. Tell us how you got there and what you did to get out of it. *Alternate: India.* What images come to mind? Write them down and tell us where those images come from? Are they accurate? Deadline: Jan. 8.

17. General. Deadline: Jan 15.

18. Stress. What stresses you out? How do you deal with stress? Write about a time when you have felt stressed out, or create a story in which the characters have to deal with a stressful situation. *Alternate: My story.* Pick a memorable moment from your life. Something that happened, something you did, something you witnessed. Tell a story about it that will tell us about you. 400 words, no real names, please. Give us detail. Deadline Jan. 22.

19. Faking it. Admit it, you've had to pull the wool over someone's eyes when trapped at an unexpected moment. Write about it. *Alternate: Four.* Write about the number four. Could be the time on the clock, the number of people or anything. Use the number in a story, poem or play. Deadline: Jan 29.

20. General. Deadline Feb. 5

21. Cold. Hate it? Love it? Want to move to Florida? Write about an experience you have had with cold. *Alternate: Rules.* What's the silliest or most pointless rule you've ever encountered? Tell a story about it and tell how you got around the rule or got the rule changed. Deadline: Feb. 12.

22. Elevator. You are in an elevator. The door opens and in walks an annoying type of person. Suddenly the elevator stops between floors...tell us what happens. (No real peo-

ple, please!) *Alternate: Peeves.* What is your number one pet peeve? Or what are your top 10 peeves? Deadline Feb. 26.



23. Blue. "It was the most brilliant color blue I'd ever seen..." Work that phrase into a poem or a story.

Alternate: Photo Prompt Write a story about this photo taken by Esther Bubley, 1943. (Go to youngwritersproject.org for photo to download) Deadline: Mar. 5.

24. Avoidance. What do you avoid? What do you do to avoid doing it? Tell a story about a time when you avoided something. Make it funny. *Alternate: Intolerance.* In your life have you seen intolerance or prejudice or discrimination? Is there intolerance towards students who look different or dress differently? Tell a story about your own experience or observation. Deadline: Mar. 12.

25. General. Deadline: Mar. 19.

26. Pocket. You have found something strange in your pocket. Describe it to someone who has no sight. Tell the story of how it got there. *Alternate: My Town.* Write about your town or city. Tell us one anecdote that reveals something about your community — why you like it (or don't), what it stands for; option: tell a historical story. Due: Mar. 26.

27. Bullying. Have you been the recipient? What did it do to you? Have you ever bullied anyone? Why? *Alternate: Cell phones.* Make the case that cell phones should be allowed or should not be allowed in school. Due: Apr. 2.

28. General. Deadline: Apr. 9.

29. Farming. Do you farm? Have you ever worked on a farm? Visited one? Write about it. Do you know a farmer? Talk to her or him and tell their story. Try not to romanticize. Tell a story that describes the reality of farming today. Deadline: April 16.

30. Rain. Tell us a story about your best or worst experience in the rain. *Alternate: Phobias.* Heights, small spaces, thunderstorms, spiders. Do you have a phobia? How do you deal with it? Deadline: Apr. 30.

31. Dreams. Nightmares, happy dreams, daydreams. Write about a dream you have had. Or, write about your dreams for the future. *Alternate: Poetry.* Write an ode, limerick or a shaped poem. Deadline: May 7.

32. Success. At last! Write about a time you succeeded at something you worked really hard on. *Alternate: Memorial Day.* What does this holiday mean to you? Do you do anything special, or do you just sleep in? Deadline: May 14.

33. General. Best work. Due: May 21.