



**High School
Narrative
Prompt Catalog**

High School Narrative Prompt Catalog

Below each prompt title is the number of sources. Zeros denote prompts that are not research or source dependent. Zeros also indicate when the number of sources is unknown or unspecified (i.e., recommends but does not require sources, or requires research by the student (and/or teacher)).

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The Editor's Note provides an overview of the content for this catalog and brief descriptions of the index and appendices included herein.

Editor's Note

Statement of Purpose and Alignment

This catalog provides a list of all of the Narrative prompts that are currently active in MY Access!® and available for use at the High School level. Each prompt aligns to Common Core and State educational standards and assessment practices expected of High School students for the Narrative writing genres. All prompts also align to the educational standards outlined in our rubrics and writing genres, which in turn align to the National and State education standards. Each genre was re-evaluated and updated in accordance with current academic standards and practices to better serve teachers and students. As a result of this and the MY Access!® redesign, several prompts previously found in other genres have been moved to account for these shifts in educational standards and to provide a more accurate representation of the prompts in the system. Please refer to the list of migrated prompts available in the MY Access!® Resource and Training Center to locate prompts that recently moved to other genres, or contact our staff for further assistance in locating specific prompts in the system.

Catalog Overview

The catalog provides an overview of each prompt in the system. Each catalog entry provides the title of the prompt and the text of the prompt task. The catalog entry only includes the prompt task and basic data related to the prompt. Sources and our in-house specific genre-based prompt instructions are not included. These are accessible in the system for each prompt. However, wherever possible and if applicable, a list of source titles, authors, and data are provided for each prompt entry.

Lexile level data provides a basic reference for the textual complexity levels found in particular sources. This data features in each prompt entry as both a range (from lowest to highest level, or approximate level, for a prompt's sources) and a specific value (if known or available). Only text-based sources include a Lexile level. Any multimedia source, such as a video, audio clip, map, or chart, will feature a Lexile reading of 'N/A' in the system for 'not applicable.' Teachers are encouraged to perform their own assessment of any Lexile levels provided for sources and to assess each prompt to ensure the content is appropriate for your students. All genres include prompts with and without sources. The quantity and complexity of sources varies according to education standards in each grade band.

A Note about Sources

The catalog lists details about the sources for a particular prompt when known. Sources are considered unknown when a prompt only recommends rather than requires particular sources, or requires students (and/or teachers) to research and provide their own sources. In these cases, a prompt will list a zero as the number of sources. However, this does not necessarily mean the prompt does not include, require, or recommend sources. It merely means the actual source number is unknown or specific sources are not provided. Sometimes a zero source number does simply mean the prompt does not require, need, or provide sources. Some prompts specify a required number of sources to use, while others do not. Each prompt entry in the catalog records the number of sources (if known), Lexile levels (if applicable and/or known), source titles and authors, and notes pertaining to the types of sources used in the prompt. Each Table of Contents entry includes the title of a prompt, whether it is IntelliMetric™ or Pilot, and the number of sources. Source notes provide explanation as to why certain sources were not included directly in the prompt, most often due to copyright regulations and/or length of the source. Other source notes specify if a prompt is source-based, quotation-based, or research-based. Quotations, even if integrated into the prompt task as a stepping off point, are included in the catalog as a source.

Index and Appendices

New features in the catalogs include the Index and Appendices section found at the end of each catalog. The purpose of these sections is to provide a list of prompt titles at a glance that are specifically source-based, quotation-based, and research-based, as well as a list of titles for prompts that do not require sources or evidence-based research. New features are planned for subsequent publications of the catalogs to make viewing and accessing prompts easier for teachers.

IntelliMetric™ Prompts

A Lesson Learned

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Each person has been in trouble at one time or another because he or she did something bad or said something wrong. Write a multi-paragraph narrative describing an instance when you did something you later regretted and the lesson you learned in the process.

A Meaningful Song

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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When you want to listen to music, you turn on the radio or your MP3 player, or take out one of your favorite CDs. Many times, listening to a particular song can bring back memories of a particular time, event, or person in your life. When you hear your favorite songs, what do you think of?

Write a story about the memories which one or more favorite songs bring to mind.

A Memorable Childhood Event

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Think of a childhood event that you remember vividly. It might be the first time you rode on a school bus, the day you played in an important Little League game, the day you learned to ride a bike, or another memorable event.

Write a story about the event. Describe what happened and explain why it was so memorable. Tell your story in an interesting way to engage the reader. Remember to make sure the reader has enough details about your experience so he or she can picture it in his or her mind.

An Important Change

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Think of a time in your life when something important changed. You may have moved to a new home, changed schools, or had neighbors move away, for example, or a local business may have closed its doors.

Write a narrative telling what happened when something important changed and how you felt about the changes that occurred.

An Important Choice

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Write a narrative essay about a time you had to make an important choice.

Athletic Challenges

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Most of us have strong memories of the first time we experienced an athletic challenge.

Write about your first attempt participating in any athletic activity. The activity may be one that looked easy but turned out to be a real challenge, or it might be one that came quite naturally to you. As you write, try to picture the time, place, people involved, and how you felt. Describe the experience in as much detail as possible. Be sure to tell why this experience was important to you and how it impacted your life.

Bad Things Lead to Good

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

We have all encountered bad situations in our lives that later turned out to lead to good things. Think of a time when a bad situation actually resulted in a good outcome. What happened? What did you learn from this experience?

Write a narrative about a bad situation that you have encountered that later turned out positively and what you learned from the experience.

Boy Reading

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: “Boy Reading” Provided by Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Coming of Age

Prompt Source(s): 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Recall a time in your life when a particular event changed the way you thought about a certain concept, which signaled your transition from childhood to adulthood. Use the texts supplied by your teacher, and/or other readings, as a guideline for using figurative language in coming-of-age stories. Then, using figurative language, write a personal narrative about your coming-of-age experience, and conclude with a reflection on that experience.

Couple with Bicycles

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: “Bicycles” Provided by Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Create Your Own Fable

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Aesop's fables use animals and fanciful settings to highlight different aspects of the human condition and to teach important moral lessons. If you were to create a modern-day fable, what characters would you use? What lesson would you teach?

In a detailed essay, create your own fable in which the characters must learn an important lesson about life. Be sure that your story contains all of the elements included in a meaningful fable.

Day with a Historical Person or Fictional Character

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

If you could spend one day with a historical person or a fictional character, who would it be? What would you do during your day together? Where would you go? What would you talk about?

Write a narrative essay describing where you and this person would go and what you and this person would do. Be sure to use details and evidence supporting your ideas.

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Facing Your Fears

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Everybody is afraid of something. Some people may be afraid of certain places, such as a very tall building or a dark forest late at night. Other people might find themselves fearful of certain experiences, such as trying out for a sport or speaking in public. Still others may find themselves frightened by spiders or ferocious dogs.

Think about an experience in which you had to face one of your greatest fears. Write an essay in which you use concrete sensory details and images to describe your experience of facing this fearful situation. Did you learn anything by facing, or not facing, your fears?

Fortunato's Version of "The Cask of Amontillado"

Prompt Source(s): 1

Source Lexile Range: 800L-900L

Source One: "The Cask of Amontillado" By Edgar Allan Poe

Source Lexile Level: 870L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

After reading "The Cask of Amontillado," by E. A. Poe, rewrite the story from the point of view of Fortunato. Include dialogue, description, and pacing to introduce the characters from his view, establish the situation, and describe events.

Having a Superpower for a Day

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Imagine you were suddenly granted the superpower of your choice for a day. Consider which superpower you would want to have and what you would do on the day you had your special power.

Influenced by Power

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Write an essay about a time when you were influenced by power.

Jet Window

Prompt Source(s): 1

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Jet Window" Provided by Vantage Learning

Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Jumping to Conclusions

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

There were many times in history when people jumped to conclusions because they were afraid. Unfortunately, there are still times today when we prejudge based on fear or peer pressure.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss a time when you jumped to conclusions too quickly and made a bad decision because you were scared or felt pressured. Make sure to include specific details and examples to support your explanation.

Life without Electricity

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Suppose you woke up one morning and found that all the electricity in the country was off and would not be restored. What do you think life would be like?

Write a story about what you imagine would happen if you woke up in a world without electricity. Explain the setting and details of the experience. Tell your story in an interesting way to engage the readers. Remember to make sure the readers have enough details about your experience so they can picture it in their minds.

Love Story

Prompt Source(s): 1 quot.

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: Quotation By Anonymous, provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s)

“Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it’s what you are expected to give—which is everything.”
—Anonymous

Write a narrative essay about a person you love and how this love has influenced who you are.

Middle of the Road

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Lady with Suitcase" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Positive Influence

Prompt Source(s): 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Write an essay about someone who influenced you in a positive way.

Real Courage

Prompt Source(s): 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Courage often enables people to face danger, fear, or change. Think of a time when you did something that took real courage. You might have taken a risk, stood up for something you believed was right, or did something that others thought you couldn't.

Write a narrative describing the event. Tell what happened and how the experience affected you.

The Value of Sacrifice

Prompt Source(s): 1 *quot.* **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: **Quotation** By Henry Ward Beecher, provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

"In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich."
—Henry Ward Beecher

Some people think that sacrificing something important for the well-being of another is one of the strongest virtues a person can possess. By sacrificing, we learn much about ourselves and those around us.

Write a personal narrative in which you describe a time you had to sacrifice something important for someone else. What did you sacrifice? What made this action so special, and what lessons did you learn? Be sure to include specific details to support your narrative.

Time Spent with a Famous Person

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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You have been given the chance to spend a day with a famous person of your choosing. This person may be a character from a book, a movie, television or some other source. Why did you choose the person you did? Why is meeting with this person important to you?

Write a narrative about the time you spent with the famous person you have chosen.

Where I Grew Up

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Some of the fondest memories we carry are those of the places where we grew up. These memories may be about the friends who lived in our neighborhood, the great times spent in our family home, or the important lessons we learned.

Write a narrative in which you describe the place where you grew up. What makes this place so special in your memory? Be sure to use specific details to make your recollection vivid to the readers.

Write a Creation Myth

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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All cultures have their own story of creation that describes the first appearance of people on Earth or of the people of their civilization. For example, the Navajo believe that the first beings crawled up through a reed from the three underworlds into the Fourth World, where the process of creating all living things began. These creation myths frequently involve deities and different materials, like swirling waters or mud, from

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which the earth is made. If you lived in an ancient civilization, how might you have believed that the earth was created? Would your creation myth involve deities, already existing animals or creatures, and mountains or volcanoes?

Write a myth as a member of an ancient civilization in which you describe how the earth and its creatures were created.

Pilot Prompts

A Life Experience That Demonstrates My Character

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Oftentimes, a particular experience can reveal a person's character or help to shape it. Many experiences, such as participating in volunteer work, clubs, teams, or church-related events allow for opportunities to demonstrate or shape a person's character.

Tell a story about an experience in your life that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

A Time When You Offended Someone

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Think about a time when you offended another person. It may have been a comment that made someone feel inferior or excluded from your group, a strong opinion that you voiced without regard to others, or a judgment made about an issue that did not account for an individual's personal situation. If you have never been involved in a situation like this, create a scenario in which it has occurred. What happened and how did you deal with the situation?

Write a story that recounts a time, real or imagined, when you offended another person. Include specific details about what happened and explain how you dealt with the situation. Tell your story in an interesting way so the readers can picture the scenario in their minds.

An Encounter with “Character”

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

“Character” is a word often used to refer to a person’s integrity, but it is also used to describe an object or place that exhibits a certain charm or appeal. Some people might even say that an old building has “character,” meaning that its design elements seem to have personality.

Write a narrative in which you encounter an object, building, or particular place that has “character.” Use vivid details so that your readers will experience the charm or appeal you have identified.

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Army Instead of Internment

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

During World War II, all California residents of Japanese descent were forcibly sent to internment camps. Many of the young adults were given the option to join the Army or move to the camps.

Imagine you are a young Japanese American citizen at the end of World War II. Write a first-person narrative in which you describe your decision to join the Army. Limit your narrative to the 24-hour period in which you made the decision. Remember to convey the reasons for your decision by including dialogue, sensory detail, and figurative language.

Cleaning Up the Marsh

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: “Marsh Clean-up” Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Common Application 1 - What Makes You Unique?

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Common Application 2 - A Challenge

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Common Application 3 - Questioning a Belief

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

Common Application 4 - A Problem

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

Common Application 5 - An Accomplishment

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Common Application 6 - An Engaging Topic

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Common Application 7 - Your Choice Essay

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Continuing *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*

Prompt Source(s): 1

Source Lexile Range: 1200L-1300L

Source One: *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz* By Francis Scott Fitzgerald, provided courtesy of *Project Gutenberg*
Source Lexile Level: 1200L-1300L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Read the excerpt from the novella *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In Fitzgerald's novella *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*, the main character is John T. Unger. In the excerpt, John's parents send him away from his hometown of Hades, Mississippi, to a private preparatory school in Boston, Massachusetts. Based on the excerpt, write a narrative about John's arrival and first day at the St. Midas's Preparatory School. Include details about the setting and characters from the excerpt in your continuation of the narrative.

Cosmetology Senior Trade Reflection

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

It is important to reflect on how you have matured as a Cosmetology student during the last three academic years. In a multi-paragraph personal narrative, reflect on how you

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have grown as a professional in your field. Your response should address and include the following:

- a review of your experiences in your freshman year that led to your choosing Cosmetology;
- strengths and weaknesses as a professional in your field;
- challenges you faced and how you overcame them, including specific ones you faced in your sophomore year and the process you used for solving problems and meeting cosmetology industry standards;
- a plan of action to further refine your skills and overcome challenges you still face;
- job-ready skills required of cosmetology;
- your readiness to obtain employment, or job shadow in a professional salon setting;
- a description of your goals for your senior year and projected post-secondary educational and professional objectives;
- a prediction of accomplishments you anticipate achieving in your senior year.

Figuring It Out

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Think of a time when you suddenly figured something out that you had not understood before. It might have been an idea in class or a skill in sports that you just could not get, for example.

Write a narrative telling about the events that led up to your moment of understanding and how you felt afterward.

Girl Climbing a Tree

Prompt Source(s):	1	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One: "Tree Girl" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Handling an Offensive Incident

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Think about a time when you were offended by an incident or person. What thoughts and emotions did you experience during and afterward? How did you resolve the situation? Would you do anything differently if it happened again?

Write a story that recounts a time, real or imagined, when an incident or person offended you. Include specific details about what happened and explain how you dealt with the situation. Be sure to tell your story in an interesting way so the readers can picture the scenario in their minds.

Handling an Uncomfortable Situation

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

There are times when we find ourselves in very uncomfortable situations. Arguably, one of the most uncomfortable situations is when negative racial comments and undertones are prevalent in a conversation. Think about a time when you felt uncomfortable as a result of someone talking negatively about race. Did you change the subject, confront the person, or engage in the conversation? What were the views of the others involved and how did those views impact the situation?

Write a story that recounts a time when you felt uncomfortable as a result of someone talking negatively about race. Include specific details about what happened and how the situation was handled or resolved. Be sure to tell the story in an interesting way so the readers can picture the scenario in their minds.

Happy Couple

Prompt Source(s): 1

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: “Suited Couple” Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Human Impact on Earth's Ecosystems

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Write a narrative on what you have read or heard recently about the human impact on Earth's ecosystems. What do you think we can do to ensure that the natural systems will survive and be sustainable for the future?

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Internment Instead of Army

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

During World War II, all California residents of Japanese descent were forcibly sent to internment camps. Many of the young adults were given the option to join the Army or move to the camps.

Imagine you are a young Japanese American citizen at the end of World War II. Write a first-person narrative in which you describe your decision to move with your family to the internment camps. Limit your narrative to the 24-hour period in which you made the decision. Remember to convey the reasons for your decision by including dialogue, sensory detail, and figurative language.

Landfill Dwellers

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Shanty Town" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Liberty Enlightening the World

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Source One: “Statue of Liberty” Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Littered Beach

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: “Walking amid Litter” Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Maintaining Self-Respect in a Challenging Situation

Prompt Source(s): 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Some people believe that maintaining one’s self-respect is the key to surviving a challenging problem. Think of a situation that could demonstrate the truth of this belief. What could happen to test a person’s self-respect? Why is self-respect important?

Write a narrative about someone who maintained his/her self-respect while facing a challenging problem. Be sure to include specific details to describe the situation for the readers so they understand how this person’s self-respect was tested and the importance of it in relation to the outcome.

Making Connections with “Yesterday” by The Beatles

Prompt Source(s): 2 **Source Lexile Range:** NP

Source One: Lyrics for “Yesterday” from the album *Help!* By The Beatles, provided courtesy of *AZLyrics.com*
Source Lexile Level: NP

Source Two:

Audio recording of "Yesterday" from the album *Help!*, published on YouTube as "The Beatles - Yesterday" By The Beatles, published on YouTube by user Thomaida Kotsali, and provided courtesy of YouTube

Source Lexile Level:

N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

The Beatles' song "Yesterday" topped the charts when it was released in 1965; in fact, the song has remained popular through the years, with over 3,000 cover versions of the song recorded. Part of the reason it has remained so popular is that many people can relate to its theme. The singer longs for "yesterday" when all his "troubles seemed so far away." How can you relate the lyrics of this song to your own life? Have you longed for a simpler or more peaceful time where you felt carefree without any problems?

In a detailed narrative essay, make connections with "Yesterday" by The Beatles and your own life experiences. Discuss a time in your life that connects with the theme of the song. Provide details and examples to enhance your story, citing lyrics from the song when possible.

Malala Yousafzai's Walk to School

Prompt Source(s):

0

Source Lexile Range:

N/A

Malala Yousafzai grew up in the town of Mingora in the Swat District of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The daughter of a local education activist, Malala wrote a blog about her life under Taliban rule for the BBC when she was only eleven years old. Three years later, Malala had distinguished herself as an advocate for education for young women. On October 9, 2012, she was shot in the head and neck in an assassination attempt, while riding home on a school bus. She eventually recovered and in 2013 was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Write a detailed third-person narrative in which you describe Malala Yousafzai's walk to school. Include the perspective of Malala and at least two other characters. Possible characters include her parents, a fellow classmate, or an antagonist on the street. Remember to capture the significance of the experience using dialogue, sensory details, and figurative language.

Memories of September 11, 2001

Prompt Source(s):

0

Source Lexile Range:

N/A

Dramatic and important events in history freeze us in time. We never forget where we were or what we were doing when we heard about such an event. Think back and write a description of where you were and how you heard about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. Make your memories more detailed by describing all the things you felt, saw, heard, and said after hearing the news.

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Observations of an Object

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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American scientist Louis Agassiz believed that objects should be studied closely to understand the natural world. His students would study a single natural object carefully, spending hours and sometimes days in the examination. In the end, they had a greater understanding of a particular part of the natural world.

Write a narrative in which you describe a time when you examined something very closely. You might discuss an object in the natural world, an author's use of language, or a picture. Whatever you choose to discuss, describe the occasion so vividly that your readers will feel they were right there with you.

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Oil-Coated Bird

Prompt Source(s):	1	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One: "Oily Bird" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Personal Experience That Has Influenced You

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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After thinking about events in your life, write about a personal experience you have had that has changed or influenced you in some way. Write a well-developed personal narrative about your life-changing experience.

Pizza

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Pizza" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Rafting

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "River Raft" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Relating to Beth Orton's "Pass in Time"

Prompt Source(s): 2 **Source Lexile Range:** NP

Source One: Lyrics for "Pass in Time" from the album *Central Reservation* By Beth Orton, featuring Terry Callier, and provided courtesy of *AZLyrics.com*

Source Lexile Level: NP

Source Two: Audio recording of "Pass in Time" from the album *Central Reservation*, published on *YouTube* as "Beth Orton - Pass in Time" By Beth Orton, featuring Terry Callier, provided courtesy of *YouTube*

Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

The song “Pass in Time” by Beth Orton relays the story of a daughter remembering her mother’s advice that time heals all wounds. Suffering emotionally from a particular situation, such as a breakup or some type of loss can be painful. However, this is just a period of time that requires emotional healing, and time is said to heal all wounds. In the song, the daughter remembers her mother telling her that life is worth living, and after this “pass in time,” she should go back to living her life as she always did. Now, compare the ideas behind this song to your own life. Can you relate to the theme of this song in some way? Have you ever experienced some type of setback in life that was healed in time?

In a detailed essay, write a personal narrative in which you relate the meaning of this song to an experience(s) you have had in your life. Remember to cite lyrics from the song when explaining your experience and connecting it to the meaning of the song.

Ruby Bridges’ Walk to School

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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In the spring of 1960, Ruby Bridges was the only black child to enter William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Local opposition to the integration of the school made it necessary for U.S. Marshals to escort Ruby and ensure her safety.

Write a detailed third-person narrative in which you describe Ruby Bridges’ walk to school. Include the perspective of Ruby and at least two other characters. Possible characters include her parents, a U.S. Marshal, or a fellow classmate. Remember to capture the significance of the experience using dialogue, sensory details, and figurative language.

Side View Mirror

Prompt Source(s): 1	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One: “Mirror” Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Sitting in a Dental Chair

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Write a descriptive and detailed narrative essay from the perspective of a patient sitting in the dental chair. Describe the setting of the dental office using sensory images - what does it look like and smell like? What sounds do you hear? How does the chair feel as you sit in it? Include whether or not you trust the dentist, hygienist, or assistant that is working on you and explain why you feel this way. Would you recommend this dental office to a friend based on your experience? Why or why not?

Smoke-filled Sky

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Smoke" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Story about the "Real" You

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

It is difficult for our friends and family to know everything about us. Many times we feel that a very important part of ourselves remains hidden from those who think that they know us best. If you could write a story that would reveal the "real" you, what characters would be in the story and how would the plot develop?

Write a story that reveals the "real" you to readers. Use characters, plot, and setting to show the side of you that others do not see.

Surviving on an Island

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Imagine finding yourself shipwrecked on an island with only your backpack to help you survive. Luckily, there are items in your backpack that could aid in your survival.

Write a narrative about your experience and how the items in your backpack helped you to survive.

The Trash Picker

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Trash Picker" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Tradition You Will Pass on to Future Generations

Prompt Source(s): 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Families and cultures have traditions that are passed from generation to generation. Some traditions are commonly enjoyed by many families, but the very special traditions are those that are unique to your family. These unique traditions enrich events that families share.

Write a narrative about a tradition that is unique to your family or that you would like to incorporate into your family traditions. Be sure to include characters, plot, setting and the other story elements in your narrative.

Trio Outdoors

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Trio" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Waiting Room

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Waiting Room" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Walking Girls

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Source One: "Girls with Gourds" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

What Happens to the "Book of Sand?"

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 700L-800L

Source One: "The Book of Sand" By Jorge Luis Borges
Source Lexile Level: 700L-800L

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

"The Book of Sand", a short story by Jorge Luis Borges, shares a brief glimpse into the life of a man who comes across a supernatural and mysterious manuscript known as the Book of Sand. At the end of the narrative, Borges leaves us wondering who will be the next to pick up the Book of Sand. After carefully reading the short story, write a multi-paragraph narrative describing what happens to the next owner of this possession.

What Is So Interesting?

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Group of Kids" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Woman in a Landfill

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Woman in Landfill" Provided courtesy of Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. Use your imagination and experience to write a story about the picture. Be sure to develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict and resolution.

Your Own Personal Art History

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Write your own personal art history. Begin with your first art-making memory.

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Index for Source-based and Non-source-based Prompts

The appendices that follow provide lists of prompts with different types of sources. These appendices are intended to assist teachers in more easily identifying and locating prompts in the catalog. Each appendix includes only the titles of prompts from this catalog. Prompts are arranged in alphabetical order in the catalog by type (IntelliMetric™ or Pilot), as indicated in the Table of Contents. The appendices are divided into two main categories: source-based (including research-based and quotation-based prompts) and non-source-based prompts. The first three appendices are for source-based prompts; the last appendix is for non-source-based prompts. The following are notes pertaining to the definitions and content specifications of source-based and non-source based prompts.

Source-based Prompts:

- Source-based prompts are research-based and often require sources (whether specified or not) and include quotation-based writing tasks.
- Some source-based prompts provide or indicate specific sources while others require students and/or teachers to conduct their own research to address a prompt topic.
- Quotation-based prompts require reference to, analysis of, and/or interpretation of a particular quotation.
 - Most quotation-based prompts integrate quotations into the prompt task rather than offer the quotation as a separate source.
 - Quotations are typically too brief compared to most sources or excerpts from works that are more extensive; thus they are usually not considered a formal ‘source’ for students to use in addressing a prompt task.
 - To prevent inaccuracy, Lexile levels for quotations are not provided due to the brevity of most quotations.
- The types of sources used in source-based prompts vary greatly by prompt and can include multimedia and text-based sources.

Non-source-based Prompts:

- Non-source-based prompts do not require or necessitate research and/or source-based evidence to complete the writing task.
- Most non-source-based prompts are typically knowledge, experience, and/or opinion-based prompt tasks.

Appendix I: Source-based Prompts (Sources Provided)

IntelliMetric™

Boy Reading
Couple with Bicycles
Fortunato's Version of "The Cask of Amontillado"
Jet Window
Middle of the Road

Pilot

Cleaning Up the Marsh
Continuing "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"
Girl Climbing a Tree
Happy Couple
Landfill Dwellers
Liberty Enlightening the World
Littered Beach
Making Connections with "Yesterday" by The Beatles
Oil-Coated Bird
Pizza
Rafting
Relating to Beth Orton's "Pass in Time"
Side View Mirror
Smoke - filled Sky
The Trash Picker
Trio Outdoors
Upside Down on a Roller Coaster
Using the Map
Waiting Room
Walking Girls
What Is So Interesting?
Woman in a Landfill

Appendix II: Source-based Prompts (Sources Not Provided)

IntelliMetric™

N/A¹

Pilot

What Happens to the Book of Sand?

1. This type of prompt is not available at this time in MY Access!®. However, new prompts and IntelliMetric™ models are in development. Check back frequently for updates!

Appendix III: Quotation-based Prompts

IntelliMetric™

Love Story
The Value of Sacrifice

Pilot

NA¹

1. This type of prompt is not available at this time in MY Access!®. However, new prompts and IntelliMetric™ models are in development. Check back frequently for updates!

Appendix IV: Non-source-based Prompts (Sources Not Required)

IntelliMetric™

A Lesson Learned
A Meaningful Song
A Memorable Childhood Event
An Important Change
An Important Choice
Athletic Challenges
Bad Things Lead to Good
Coming of Age
Create Your Own Fable
Day with a Historical Person or Fictional Character
Facing Your Fears
Having a Superpower for a Day
Influenced by Power
Jumping to Conclusions
Life without Electricity
Positive Influence
Real Courage
Time Spent with a Famous Person
Where I Grew Up
Write a Creation Myth

Pilot

A Life Experience That Demonstrates My Character
A Time When You Offended Someone
An Encounter with "Character"
Army Instead of Internment
Common Application 1 - What Makes You Unique?
Common Application 2 - A Challenge
Common Application 3 - Questioning a Belief
Common Application 4 - A Problem
Common Application 5 - An Accomplishment
Common Application 6 - An Engaging Topic
Common Application 7 - Your Choice Essay
Cosmetology Senior Trade Reflection
Figuring It Out
Handling an Offensive Incident
Handling an Uncomfortable Situation
Human Impact on Earth's Ecosystems
Internment Instead of Army

Maintaining Self - Respect in a Challenging Situation
Malala Yousafzai's Walk to School
Memories of September 11, 2001
Observations of an Object
Personal Experience That Has Influenced You
Ruby Bridges's Walk to School
Sitting in a Dental Chair
Story about the "Real" You
Surviving on an Island
Tradition You Will Pass on to Future Generations
Trusting Your Instincts
Your Own Personal Art History
