

## Middle School (6-8) Narrative Writing Prompts

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## Middle School (6-8) Narrative Writing Prompts

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## IntelliMetric® Prompts

### A Cheating Friend

Imagine you have been studying for weeks for a very important science test. On the day of the exam, your best friend comes to you and tells you that he or she did not have time to study for the test. To your surprise, your friend asks you if he or she can copy your answers during the test.

How would you respond to your friend's request? How might this affect your friendship? Write a story about how you would respond to your friend's request and what happens the day of the big test.

### A Day as a Bird

Imagine that you wake up one morning to discover that you have somehow been changed into a bird. What do you think might now happen? What do you think you might now do?

Write a story telling what happened the day you were changed into a bird.

### A Day in Ancient Pompeii

The ancient city of Pompeii was completely covered by volcanic ash after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Imagine that you have been transported to the ancient city of Pompeii just a few days prior to the volcano's eruption.

Write an imaginative story about your experiences in Pompeii. Be sure to include details from your studies about the customs, meals, jobs, and other aspects of daily life for a citizen of ancient Pompeii to make your story more realistic.

### A Day Without Math

Can you imagine going through a normal day in a world without numbers, math operations, measurements, or other math-related concepts?

Write about spending a day without math. As you write your story, remember to provide details so the reader can picture what happens during your day.

### A Fantastic Day! - HB Unit 1 Level B

Write a fantasy story for your class to read. Write about a normal, daily event that turns into something that could not really happen.

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### **A Future Success Story**

Imagine that it is twenty years in the future and you are about to receive an award for an important accomplishment. How did you become so successful and why are you winning this award?

In a well-written story, describe this event in detail. Be sure to include specific details to make the story vivid for the readers.

### **A Memorable Experience Near Water**

Think about a memorable experience that you have had near a body of water, such as a lake, river, or ocean. What happened that made this experience so memorable? Write a narrative story about your experience. Be sure to include details to make the experience more vivid to your readers.

### **A Parent's Influence**

In the novel *The Pigman and Me* the narrator describes how he is inevitably affected by those around him, especially his mother with whom he is at constant battle. He realizes, as all children do, that our parents are there to give us advice because they have our best interests at heart.

Write a multi-paragraph story in which you describe a time you were faced with a conflict and your parents' advice affected your decision. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your response.

### **"A Retrieved Reformation" by O. Henry**

The short story "A Retrieved Reformation" ends with a twist when the safecracker, Jimmy Valentine, attempts to leave the bank. What do you think should happen next in the story?

Write a story in which you tell what happens next to the character Jimmy Valentine. What do you think his life is like? What kinds of choices do you think he'll make in the future?

### **A Special Day**

Think about a special day in your life, a day when something unusual or memorable happened. It might have been the first day of school, your birthday, or some other day.

Write your story telling what happened to you on that day and describe why it was special.

### **A Time Machine**

Imagine you have found a time machine that can magically transport you to any place in time. Write a story about your adventures in the time machine.

### **Achieving a Goal - HB Unit 2 Level C**

Write a personal narrative for your class to read. Tell about a goal you tried to achieve. Tell about obstacles and the outcome.

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### **Acts of Kindness**

Responding with kindness rather than punishment when someone tries to hurt you can bring about good results.

Think about how an act of kindness can bring about good results and write a narrative about a time when you responded to someone who hurt your feelings with an act of kindness rather than punishment. If no such situation has ever happened to you, create a similar situation in which someone responded to a hurtful situation with an act of kindness rather than punishment.

### **An Incredible New Talent**

You wake up one morning, and you discover that you have a new and incredible talent. Write a story about the day you discover that you have a new and incredible talent.

### **Animal for a Day**

Most people find animals interesting. Imagine you could be your favorite animal for a day. Write a story about what you would do if you were that animal for a day.

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**At the Bus Stop (picture)**

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.

**Big Dog (picture)**

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.



**Big Pizza (picture)**

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.

**Caught in a Winter Storm**

Imagine you find yourself in frigid winter weather with the local weather forecast calling for lots of snow. Before you know it, the snow is coming down heavily and fiercely, and local newscasts are warning residents to stay where they are and to not leave home. Where are you during this winter storm? Who are you with? What are you doing? How does your situation get resolved?

Write an imaginative story about being caught in a winter storm. It's up to you to decide the setting and characters of your story. Remember to provide detailed description and dialogue to add color to your writing and to make your story come to life.

**Changes in a Friendship**

Friendships change and evolve over time. Some friendships can last a lifetime, while others may last only a few months. Think about a time when a friendship you had changed, evolved, or ended. Perhaps you or your friend moved, transferred to a different school, or became part of a different group of friends.

Write a narrative composition about a time a friendship of yours changed, evolved, or ended. Tell what happened and how you felt about it. Be sure to include details and examples for support.

**Cherished Memories**

Significant events in a person's life become cherished memories in old age. Write a narrative in which you describe an event that would make an interesting memory for you to tell your friends or relatives later in your life.

### **Conflict in School**

Think about a time in which you got into a conflict at school. Was it with a friend, an enemy, or even a teacher?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you explain the circumstances of the conflict, the climax of the conflict, and the resolution. Be sure to include specific details to support your response.

### **Cultural Heritage or Ancestry Narrative**

As citizens of the United States of America, we all differ in our cultural heritage or ancestral background. What is your personal cultural heritage? When did your family immigrate to the United States? What stories do you have to tell relating to your personal cultural heritage and ancestry?

Write a story about your personal cultural heritage or ancestry.

### **Day When Everything Goes Wrong**

Everyone has experienced a day when it seems that everything just goes wrong. Write a story about a day when everything goes wrong.

### **Duct Tape Saves the Day**

Duct tape has many unique and useful qualities. It is used in all sorts of situations to build, fix, and rescue. It also inspires new ideas and inventions. Astronauts have used NASA-brand duct tape in space during the Apollo 13 mission and to repair tiles on the space shuttle. Think of the properties of duct tape and how it might be used creatively to 'save the day.'

Write a unique story with duct tape as either the main character or as a tool/resource used by the main character to fix a dire situation and 'save the day.' Make your story interesting and unusual so that your audience will want to read every word.

### **Encounter with a Spaceship**

Imagine you wake up one morning to find a spaceship has landed on your lawn. Write a story about what happens next.

### **Exploring on the Moon**

Imagine that you live in a city on the moon. One morning you wake up and decide to explore. Write a story about what happens next.

## **Facing the Impossible**

Often we are faced with tasks that seem impossible. Write a narrative essay about something you were able to accomplish that you first thought would be impossible. Be sure to include specific details and personal examples to support your response.

## **Fairy Tale from a Different Perspective**

Fairy tales are often told from the perspective of a specific character or narrator. If a certain fairy tale were told from the perspective of another character in the story, it could unfold very differently, possibly taking a comical or tragic twist. For example, how would the story of Jack and the Beanstalk differ if told by the Giant?

In a multi-paragraph story, retell a fairy tale from the perspective of a different character. Be sure to include sensory details, a well-developed setting, and all plot stages.

## **Family and Friendship**

Family and friendship are very important. We do many fun things with our friends and family. Think about one fun or exciting time you had with a very close friend or family member.

Write an essay in which you describe one thing you have done with your friend or family member and tell why it was fun.

## **Feeling Like an Outsider**

Many works of literature explore how, at one point or another, we all have felt as if we don't belong. For example, in "Barrio Boy," Ernesto Galarza shares what it was like to be an outsider in a new land. He had many struggles including learning a new language, making new friends, and becoming part of the culture.

Write a multi-paragraph autobiographical narrative in which you describe a time when you felt like an outsider.

## **Feeling Proud**

From time to time we do things that make us proud of ourselves. Sometimes we are the only ones who even know what we have done, but we recognize that performing a good deed is often its own reward.

Write a narrative about something you did that made you feel proud. Describe what happened and explain why you felt a sense of pride.

### **First Day of School**

The first day of school can be a very memorable experience. Think about a first day of school that you remember well. What happened on this first day of school? What experiences made this day memorable?

Write a story about the first day of school and what you experienced on this first day.

### **Getting Home from the Middle of Nowhere**

Imagine that you are riding on a train or a bus. Suddenly the train or bus stops, and the driver announces that you have reached the end and you must get off. As the train or bus departs, you realize that you have no idea where you are. What will you do?

Write an imaginative story about your adventures in this unfamiliar place and how you try to get home.

### **Happiest Time in Your Life**

Think about the happiest time in your life. Write a narrative in which you describe one special experience and what it meant to you.

### **Having Fun with a Group - HB Unit 2 Level B**

Think about a group to which you belong--your family, your friends, or a club, for example. Write a personal narrative about something you did together.

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### **Home Alone**

Imagine you were left at home alone for a weekend. Write a story about what happens next.

### **How Does Conflict Lead to Change?**

When conflicts erupt between people, it is often useful to examine how these conflicts ultimately change the participants. How do you think conflict can lead to change?

Write an essay about a specific time in your life when you experienced a conflict which had an impact on your, or someone else's, life. Be sure to provide details of the conflict and discuss how it changed the participants.

### **How to Avoid Doing Homework**

Homework is an essential part of school life. Some students value their homework and work very hard to complete it carefully and accurately, and some really dislike homework and try to think of a million ways to avoid it.

Write a unique story about how a student might avoid homework, and what problems he or she might encounter as a result. Make your story interesting and unusual so that your audience will want to read every word.

### **Learning from Experience**

We learn many things from experience. Think about an experience that you had that taught you an important lesson. What was the experience? What lesson did you learn from this experience?

Write a narrative about an experience you had and the important lesson you learned from it.

### **Lewis and Clark Expedition Summary**

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States. President Thomas Jefferson sent the Lewis and Clark Expedition into Louisiana to explore what it contained. While looking at a map showing the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, write a summary describing how these explorers arrived at the coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Write this description as a narrative, mentioning the physical features that they came across during their explorations.

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### **Life Changing Experiences**

Everyone goes through changes. Think about a personal experience or an experience you have read about, watched on television, or seen in a movie. Why did this change occur and how did it affect the person's life?

Write a narrative in which you describe a change a person experienced in his or her life.

## Life in Twenty Years

You may have wondered what your life will be like twenty years from now. Pretend that you have traveled twenty years into the future in a time machine. How will your life be different in twenty years? How will you be different in twenty years?

Write a narrative about how you and your life will be different twenty years from now.

## Life Without Electronic Media

Most of us rely on electronic media, such as video games, computers, TV, and cell phones for information and entertainment. What if all electronic media disappeared? What would we do for entertainment? How would we communicate with our friends and families?

Write a unique story about life without electronic media. What caused these technologies to disappear? What will people do to entertain themselves without these devices? Make your story interesting and unusual so that your audience will want to read every word.

## Memoir About Making a Change - HB Unit 4 Level C

Write a memoir to share with your teacher and classmates. Tell about a time you chose to make a change in your own life or to help change something at your school or in your community. In your memoir, tell about the events and express your feelings.

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## On the Roller Coaster (picture)



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.

### Oral History Narrative

During an interview with a person of a different generation, collect information about the important changes and experiences that have taken place in his or her life. If you were writing a biography of this person, what kind of significant events and stories revealed in the interview would you include?

Write a biographical narrative of your interviewee, including appropriate anecdotes and experiences from his or her life.

### Overcoming a Challenge in Math

Write a story about a time when you had trouble learning a new mathematical concept and how you were able to eventually learn that new concept.

### Remembering Childhood

All children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy knew was this. One day when she was two years old she was playing in a garden, and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother. I suppose she must have looked rather delightful, for Mrs. Darling put her hand to her heart and cried, ‘Oh, why can’t you remain like this for ever!’ This was all that passed between them on the subject, but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up. You always know after you are two. Two is the beginning of the end.

. . . .

Wendy . . . asked Peter how old he was. It was not really a happy question to ask him . . .’ ‘I don’t know,’ he replied uneasily, ‘but I am quite young.’ He really knew nothing about it; he had merely suspicions, but he said at a venture, ‘Wendy, I ran away the day I was born.’

‘It was because I heard father and mother,’ he explained in a low voice, ‘talking about what I was to be when I became a man.’ He was extraordinarily agitated now. ‘I don’t want ever to be a man,’ he said with passion. ‘I want always to be a little boy and to have fun. So I ran away to Kensington Gardens and lived a long, long time among the fairies.’ — from *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie

After reading the excerpt above from *Peter Pan*, think about an episode you remember from your childhood. Write a personal narrative about the episode from your childhood using a narrator and/or characters, retelling it in a natural and logical sequence.

### Smoky Sky (picture)



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 Inspired by *Harris Burdick* Picture

Every picture tells a story, and the book *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* is rich with pictures that inspire stories. Choose a picture from the book *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* by Chris Van Allsburg. Use your imagination and experiences to write a structured narrative based on the picture you chose.

### The Best Present I Ever Received!

Think about a time in your life when you received a gift that stood out from all others. Write a story about this gift.

### Theme of Defeat in Linkin Park's "In the End"

The song "In the End" by Linkin Park discusses the theme of self-defeat. Was there ever a time in your life when you felt like giving up or when you felt defeated by something? What was the outcome of the situation? How did you resolve it?

In a detailed essay, explain your connection to this song by discussing a time when you felt defeated and how the dilemma was resolved. Provide details and examples to help convey your experience, citing lyrics from the song when possible.



### **The "Tell-Tale Heart" by E.A. Poe**

"The Tell-Tale Heart" is a terrifying story told from the narrator's point of view about his descent into madness. Imagine, though, if the story had been written from the old man's perspective – how would he have described the events that led to the story's conclusion?

Using your imagination, rewrite the story "The Tell-Tale Heart" from the old man's perspective. Be sure to use details from the original story to make your version more realistic.

### **To Change a Day in Your Life**

Imagine you are given the opportunity to change a single day in your life. What day would it be and why? What important event(s) occurred on that day? How would this change affect you today?

Write a narrative about what one day in your life you would change and why.

### **Transported to Another World**

Imagine that you are getting ready for school when you start to hear noises coming from the closet. You open the door and are transported to another world.

Write a multi-paragraph story about what happens next.

### **What is It? (picture)**



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.

**Write a Scary Story**

What makes a story scary? Some scary stories include monsters, haunted houses, or snarling animals. They also build suspense and contain plot twists to surprise the reader. What frightful elements would you include in a scary story?

Write a scary story. Be sure to use details to help readers imagine what is happening in your story.

**Your Dreams**

We all have dreams about the future and goals we hope to achieve. Write a personal narrative telling about your dreams and goals for the future and how you plan to fulfill them.

**Your Funniest or Most Embarrassing Experience**

We have all had experiences at one time or another that were humorous. Think about your most embarrassing or humorous experience. In a well-developed essay, tell the story of where you were and what happened.

## Pilot Prompts

### **A Character Who Rescues Me (pilot)**

Imagine you find yourself in a situation from which you need to be rescued. If you could choose any character from a book, television show, movie, or other source, who would you choose to help you? Think about the qualities that make this character the best rescuer and consider the ways in which your situation could be resolved.

Write a story about a situation from which you need to be rescued. Be sure to describe the situation and how your chosen character's qualities assist in your rescue. Be sure to include specific details to help the readers imagine the events in their minds.

### **A Complicated Situation (pilot)**

Sometimes situations that at first look very simple turn out to be very complicated. Have you ever experienced a situation like that in your own life? Can you think of a situation in literature, history, current events or science that seemed simple at first but which turned out to be much more complicated?

In a detailed narrative, write about a situation which at first looked simple and clear but which turned out to be much more complicated. This situation may be a personal experience, or it may be an example from literature, history, current events or science. Include facts and details about the situation and your feelings about it.

### **A Memorable Scientific Discovery (pilot)**

Think about a memorable scientific discovery that has impacted the world in some way. Write a story that tells about the discovery and how it impacted the world. Include facts and details in your story that help the reader understand how and why this discovery has impacted the world.

### **A Time When Someone Offended You (pilot)**

Think about a time when someone offended you. Describe the situation and analyze the way it made you feel. How did you handle the situation? Would you handle it differently if it happened again? Discuss the impact this situation had on you.

Write a story that recounts a time, real or imagined, when someone 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 it in their minds.

**Adolescent Insecurity in Merchant's "Tell Yourself" (pilot)**

Many teenagers, especially girls, may be able to relate to this song about adolescent insecurity by Natalie Merchant. In the song, Merchant informs teens that they are all beautiful and that they should feel good about themselves. Think about how this song applies to your own life. Have you ever felt insecure? How about a friend of yours? Why did he/she feel this way, and what did he/she do to resolve the situation?

In a detailed personal narrative, make connections between this song and your own life by discussing your own or someone else's experiences with outward beauty and insecurity. Make connections with the song by citing lyrics from "Tell Yourself."

**African Fable (pilot)**

Before modern technologies improved our understanding of the physical and cultural aspects of geography, man used fables to explain these wonders. Africa has many examples of physical and cultural geography that can be explained in fable form.

Pick a cultural or physical element of Africa's geography and write a multi-paragraph fable explaining how it came to be. Be sure to include facts, details, and examples for support.

**Archaeological Expedition with Your Class (pilot)**

Your class is going on an archaeological expedition. Where do you go? What do you unearth? What happens to the items you discover once you take them back to school?

In a well-developed story, describe your archaeological expedition. Use information you have learned about archaeological expeditions to make your story as realistic as possible.

**Bus Passenger in 1955 (pilot)**

Imagine you are a passenger on a segregated bus in 1955. You are sitting on the bus and someone demands that you move from your seat. Write a multi-paragraph narrative in the first person point of view describing the events that take place based on your decision to either remain seated or move. Remember to convey your motivation by including dialogue, sensory detail, and figurative language.

**Colonizing on Mars (pilot)**

With the development of space travel, living beyond the planet Earth has become a possibility. After an extensive application process, you have been selected for the Mars One Mission that departs from Earth in September 2022 and arrives on Mars June 2023.

Imagine you have just arrived on Mars. Write a multi-paragraph narrative about your experiences while colonizing the planet. Remember to convey your motivation for joining this mission and what you hope to gain from it.

### **Day of the Dead Celebration in Mexico (pilot)**

Day of the Dead is a celebration to commemorate the deceased members of families in Mexico. Similar to the religious observance of All Souls' Day, people all over Mexico prepare for the observance by building altars, lighting candles, and leaving mementos at the gravesites of their loved ones. Why do you think the observance of this holiday is so important?

After researching specific details about the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead, write a story depicting the celebration. Develop your characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution so the readers can imagine this celebration and understand its importance with clarity.

### **Dealing with Racism (pilot)**

Think about a time when you dealt with racism. This can range from being discriminated against personally or witnessing another person experiencing discrimination. How did it make you feel, and what could you have done in the situation to improve the outcome?

Write a story that recounts a time when you dealt with racism, whether personally or as a witness. Tell what happened, explain how you felt, and include what you could have done to improve the outcome. Tell your story in an interesting way so readers can picture the experience in their minds.

### **Don't Give Up! (pilot)**

People are often encouraged in various ways. Write a story about someone who wants to give up on a goal but is encouraged to achieve it.

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### **"Duffy's Jacket" by Bruce Coville (pilot)**

In the story "Duffy's Jacket," the main characters experience a multitude of feelings during the conflict in the story.

Write a multi-paragraph narrative essay in which you describe a time when you experienced feelings like those of one of the characters. Be sure to use specific examples from the text to support your personal connection to the character.

### **Experiences with a Different Skin Color (pilot)**

In 1959, John Howard Griffin, a white journalist exploring the impact of racism, recruited a dermatologist to assist him in artificially darkening his skin by using drugs, sunlamp treatments, and skin creams. Griffin did this so that he could travel through Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina as a black man. People who knew Griffin well did not recognize him with his darkened skin and shaved head. Griffin kept a diary during the weeks he traveled and subsequently wrote the book *Black Like Me*, in which he recounts the way he was treated by people of both races.

Imagine that you were able to lighten or darken your skin to travel as a person with a different skin color. What do you think you would experience as a person with a different skin color?

In a well-developed story, recount situations that you might experience today if you were a person of a different skin color. Use story elements (characters, plot, setting, conflict, and resolution) to make your experiences come alive.

### **Family Outing (pilot picture)**



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.

### **Girl and Bear (pilot picture)**



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.

### **Gladiators (pilot)**

In Roman times, men known as gladiators fought to the death in an arena filled with people cheering for the strongest to survive. Recently, archaeologists in England found evidence that female gladiators also existed. Many of these fighters were slaves or condemned criminals who were forced to fight to the death for sport and entertainment value.

Imagine you are a gladiator assigned to fight. Write a story detailing what happens to you during a fight in the infamous Colosseum. Support your narrative with meaningful examples, reasons, and information based upon your research or readings.

### **Happiest Time in Your Life (Spanish pilot)**

Piensa en el momento más feliz de tu vida. Describe una de tus mejores experiencias y lo que significó para tí. Escribe un ensayo que esté bien desarrollado para ser leído por tu maestro acerca del momento más feliz de tu vida.

### **Helping a Young Neighbor (pilot)**

You have slept through the ringing of your alarm clock again! As you dash out the front door to make the bus before it is too late, you notice that your three-year-old neighbor, who lives across the street, is wandering around his front yard wearing no coat or shoes in the chilly morning air. If you stop to help, you will miss the bus. If you ignore the situation, you will worry about the child all day.

What should you do? Should you help the child or should you try to make it to school on time? Write a story about what you would do, and explain how you would resolve this situation.

### **In a Space Ship On Your Way to Mars (pilot)**

With the development of space travel, living beyond the planet Earth has become a possibility. After an extensive application process, you have been selected for the Mars One Mission that departs from Earth in September 2022 and arrives on Mars June 2023.

Imagine you are in the space ship on your way to Mars. Write a multi-paragraph narrative about your voyage and any events that happen along the way. Remember to convey your motivation for joining this mission and what you hope to gain from it.

### **In the Waiting Room (pilot picture)**



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.

### **Incident in a Department Store (pilot)**

Sidney and Jamie are walking around their local mall when they decide to browse through a large department store. Shortly after leaving the department store, Jamie shows Sidney a brand new piece of jewelry with a price tag attached to it. Sidney did not notice Jamie purchase anything in the store.

Imagine you are in Sidney's place. What do you believe your friend Jamie has done? What should you say to Jamie? Write a story about Sidney's dilemma and how it is resolved.



**Invisible for a Day (pilot)**

Imagine you woke up one morning to find a strange note that said you would be invisible for one day. Write a story that tells what would happen on that day. Include characters, plot, conflict, and resolution to complete your story.

**Keelboat Annie - HB Unit 5 Level A (pilot)**

Review the story about Keelboat Annie on page 66 of the Level A Reading and Language Unit 5 Test booklet. Write a story about another event in Keelboat Annie's life. Tell your classmates about a goal she tried to reach. Tell how she used her strength and cleverness to reach her goal.

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**Lady Liberty (pilot picture)**

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.

### Lady with Suitcase (pilot picture)



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.

### Lucky Duck? (pilot picture)



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.

### Marsh Cleanup (pilot picture)



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.

### Message in a Bottle (pilot)

Your class has taken a trip to the beach to study marine life for the day. Your teacher divides the class into teams of two. You and your partner are strolling along the beach when suddenly you see a beautiful blue bottle glistening in the sun. After you pick up the bottle and rub the sand off, you notice a wrinkled piece of paper inside of it containing a message.

Write a story telling what you and your partner would do next. Be sure to include details about the note and what you decide to do after reading the message in the bottle.

### Mirror View (pilot picture)



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.

### ***Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe (pilot)**

The book *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* ends in a joyful wedding, but have you ever wondered what happened after they lived happily ever after?

After carefully reading the story, write a multi-paragraph narrative of what could have happened to the characters after the wedding. Describe what would occur next and how future events would affect their lives.

### **Narrative about Severe Weather or a Natural Disaster (pilot)**

Write a narrative about a time when you experienced severe weather or a natural disaster. In your narrative, include why the event was significant or memorable.

### **Neighborhood Relationships (pilot)**

As we grow up, many people come into our lives with whom we build relationships. Even the people in our neighborhood can play an especially important role in our lives. Think about your relationship with someone in your neighborhood like a coach, school friend, or an elderly neighbor. What was your relationship with this person like? What experiences did you share with this person?

Write a detailed narrative about a memorable relationship between two people in a neighborhood. Include details and examples, which may be from your own experiences, to help describe this special relationship.

### **Offending Ethnicity (pilot)**

Think about a time when you offended a person's ethnicity and then realized that you were being hurtful. The offense could have been sharing a culturally insensitive joke or story, making comments against someone's religion, or mocking a person's language, just to name a few. 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 hurt your offense caused?

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

### **Oil-covered Bird (pilot picture)**



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.

### **Pulled into Your Television (pilot)**

You are watching your favorite television show when, suddenly, one of the characters pulls you into his (her) world through the screen! Write a story telling what happens and how you get back home.

### **Racial Discomfort (pilot)**

Sometimes kids, and even adults, make offensive or uncomfortable statements without thinking. A conversation can quickly turn tense when someone tells jokes or makes negative comments about people of a different race or ethnic group. Think about a time when you felt uncomfortable due to someone speaking negatively about race. How did you handle the situation? Was the outcome positive or negative?

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

### **Settling a Disagreement by Talking (pilot)**

Many people have had disagreements at one time or another. The disagreement could have been with a friend, teacher, or family member. Think about a time when you or someone you know had a disagreement and settled it by talking with the other person involved.

Write a narrative essay telling about a time when you had a disagreement with a friend, teacher, or family member and settled it by talking with the other person. Include specific details, descriptions, and reactions.

### Skateboarder (pilot picture)



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 a Dust Bowl Event (pilot)

During the 1930s, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and several other states experienced great dust storms that resulted in the death of crops, livestock, and people. These Dust Bowl days are documented in survivor stories, historical fiction, and photographs, which show the deep effects on the farmers in the Dust Bowl states. Read an account of the Dust Bowl and view photographs of the storms and plight of the survivors. As you learn about the Dust Bowl days, imagine how the families felt as they lived through these moments and events.

After learning about the Dust Bowl days, write a story from the perspective of a child or adult affected by a Dust Bowl moment or event. Include details in your story that come from your research and enable the reader to understand the conditions of those times.

### Story of an Adventure (pilot)

Each season provides different opportunities for fun and adventure, whether it is telling ghost stories at a “haunted house,” going camping or water skiing for the first time, or learning how to snowboard. What kind of fun and exciting adventures have you had? Who shared the adventure with you? How was the adventure special for the season?

Write a story about a specific adventure or exciting experience you have had. Remember to include dialogue whenever possible to make the plot and characters come to life.

### Talking Reflection (pilot)

As you gaze into the mirror, combing your hair as you get ready for the day ahead, your reflection starts talking to you. Write a story about the morning your reflection talked to you.

### **The Basketball Match (pilot picture)**



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### **The Cracked Vase (pilot)**

Most children are told to never play ball in the house. Imagine that one day you were playing ball in the house and that you accidentally broke a very special vase.

Write a story describing how the vase was broken and what happened next. Be sure to include details which will enhance the plot of your story.

### **"The Highwayman" as Told by Tim, the Ostler (pilot)**

“The Highwayman,” a narrative poem by Alfred Noyes, tells the story of the love between the highwayman and the innkeeper’s daughter, and how they are betrayed by Tim, the ostler. How would this story differ if told by Tim, the ostler?

Tell the story of “The Highwayman” from the point of view of Tim, the ostler. How would Tim view the same main events? Be sure to use strong verbs and figurative language just as Noyes did in the poem.

### **The Meaning of Diversity (pilot)**

What does diversity really mean? What have you experienced that has taught you the true meaning of diversity? How has diversity impacted your life?

Tell the story of an event you witnessed or experienced that exemplifies what diversity means to you. Include details that enable the reader to understand how this incident taught you the meaning of diversity.

### **The "Real" You That You Want Others to Know (pilot)**

Social media provide a way for us to connect with our friends and family. We use Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to post the details of our days, share photos, and sometimes reveal our thoughts. However, these social media posts only skim the surface of our actual lives and present limited views of who we really are. Those who truly know us understand our deeper feelings and desires, which we do not share with everyone.

Write a story that reveals the "real" you that you would like everyone in your life to know. Use characters, plot, and setting to make your story realistic and meaningful.

### **The Whisper (pilot picture)**



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.

### **Torn Between Two Parties (pilot)**

Maria was excited to attend her best friend's birthday party, but she realized that she had another party on the same day at the same time for a friend she has not seen in awhile. She does not want to upset either of her friends by going to one party and not the other.

Whose party will she attend? How will she make her decision? What is the outcome of this situation? Write a story about Maria, and tell what she does to solve her problem.

### **Trading Places with a Parent (pilot)**

For just one day, you have to trade places with one of your parents. Tell a story about your day as one of your parents.



### Traveling Girl (pilot picture)



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.

### Tree-climbing Girl (pilot picture)



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 Became of Ichabod Crane? (pilot)

At the conclusion of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, the reader was left with one mystery---what happened to Ichabod Crane? The story suggests that he eventually became a lawyer and then a judge. What do you think actually became of Ichabod Crane? Write a narrative in which you finish the story of what happened to Crane after his encounter with the Headless Horseman.

**Whitewater Rafting (pilot picture)**

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.