



**Upper Elementary School  
Narrative  
Prompt Catalog**

# Upper Elementary School Narrative Prompt Catalog

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*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 Upper Elementary School level. Each prompt aligns to Common Core and State educational standards and assessment practices expected of Upper Elementary 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 Bus Trip to Anywhere - Improved

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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You and a group of students from school are on a school bus. Your teacher tells you that you can take the bus and the students anywhere you want to go.

Where would you choose to go? Write a story for your teacher about where you go and the journey that you take. Describe what you see, where you stop, and what part of the trip the students enjoy the most.

### A Day at the Zoo

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The local zoo has asked you to take care of George, a young monkey. Write a story about the day you spent taking care of George. Before you begin to write, think about all the things you did with George. Now tell the story about the day you spent taking care of George.

### A Day With Columbus, Pilgrims or Native Americans

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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When we learn about life long ago, it seems very different, but some things were just the same. Just like us today, people had to live somewhere, find food, work, and play. Pretend you are sailing with Christopher Columbus, living with the Pilgrims, or living in an indigenous village. Write a short story about a day in your life. Be sure to talk about the work, clothes, games, and festivals in your life.

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### A Funny Thing

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Each person has had an instance when something funny or out of the ordinary happened. Write a narrative describing the funniest thing that ever happened to you in your own life.

### A Good Deed

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Everyone has done something to help another person. Think about a time when you did something that helped someone else. Now write a story about a time when you did something that helped someone else.

### A New Invention or Discovery

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine that one day you created a new invention or made a new discovery. Write a multi-paragraph story about your experiences creating this invention or making this discovery. Be sure to include details to make your narrative interesting.

### A Special Day

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Is there a day or an event in your life that was so special that you wish you could live it over again? What day would you like to relive? What happened that made it so special?

Write a story about this special event or special day.

### A Train That Can Go Anywhere!

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine a train that could take you anywhere on Earth! You have a ticket in your hand for a trip that can make stops at any three places. Write a story about what happens from the time you get on the train until it returns to your hometown.

*This is a representative sample of an AIMS test question. This is not an operational test form. Copyright 2005 by the Arizona Department of Education.*

## A Trunk in the Attic

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

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Imagine that you found an old trunk in your grandparents' attic. What would you like to find in the trunk? Explain the reasons for your choices. As you write your story, remember to describe what you found and give details to explain your discovery.

## A Vivid Childhood Memory

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

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We all have experienced something in our childhood that has impacted our lives. Think of a vivid memory from your childhood. Do you remember the first time you rode a school bus? Do you remember your first best friend? Do you remember when you learned to ride a bicycle? Do you remember the first time you earned enough money to buy something that you really wanted?

In a multi-paragraph essay, narrate the events related to a vivid childhood memory. Be sure to use details and examples so that your readers will understand what makes your memory so important.

## A World Without Gravity

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

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Imagine you wake up one day in a world without gravity. Write a story about what happens throughout the day. Be sure to include specific details and examples in your story.

## Adventure in a Blackout

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

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Imagine that there is a thunderstorm one night, which causes a blackout for the whole town. The street lights are out, and people everywhere are in the dark. Everyone in the town has to use either a flashlight or a candle in order to see anything at all.

Write a story about an adventure that takes place during a blackout in your town.

## Adventures in a Haunted Mansion

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

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Imagine that you are walking to school with a friend when you find yourselves in front of the scariest haunted mansion ever. You and your friend cannot resist the adventure, and you enter the mansion with only the contents of your backpacks to defend yourselves against any monsters you may find. As you roam through the mansion, you meet several monsters, but you and your friend are able to successfully defend yourselves and escape the mansion unharmed.

Write a creative story about your adventures fighting monsters in the scariest haunted mansion ever. Remember to use only items that might be in your backpack to defend yourself, and include sensory details to make your story come to life.

## An Exciting or Funny Experience

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

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Think about a time something exciting or funny happened. Write about the exciting or funny experience and what happened.

## An Exciting Time

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

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We all have things that we believe are exciting. Think of something you have done that was exciting to you. It might be winning a ball game, getting a new pet, or riding a bike. Write a story about a time when you felt excited.

*This is a representative sample of an AIMS test question. This is not an operational test form. Copyright 2005 by the Arizona Department of Education.*

## Bad Manners

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

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Manners are like laws that set a standard for behavior, but they are unlike laws in that there is no formal system of punishment for bad manners. Examples of bad manners include not saying "please" and "thank you," keeping your elbows on the table while you are eating, and talking when someone else is talking. Have you ever used bad

manners? Have you ever experienced someone's disapproval because you or a friend used bad manners?

Write a story about an experience you had with bad manners.

## Celebrating a Special Day with Family Traditions

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

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People celebrate special days by doing things their families have done for many years. This is called following a tradition. For example, in America, many families have a big turkey with pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving Day. What traditions are followed in your family? Choose one and describe it so we can all imagine we are right there with you.

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## Continue This Story

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

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While out exploring the woods one day, you hear the clouds start to rumble and small drops of rain begin to fall. As you turn to return home, you hear a twig snap in the woods behind you. When you turn around, you see nothing, but you get the feeling that you are being followed.

Write a story in which you describe what happens as you return home. You might consider adding people, creatures, or a surprise ending to help make your story more interesting. Be sure to use details to help readers imagine what is happening in your story.

## Favorite Character

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

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Imagine you could be a character in any book. What character would you choose to be? If you could be this character, how would your life be different?

## Fractured Fairy Tales

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

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Choose a well-known fairy tale. Retell the story in first person from the point of view of one of the characters. Be sure to use descriptive language and dialogue so that the plot, setting, and conflict of the story are clear to the reader.

## Fun During a Break from School

---

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

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During the year students are given several breaks from school. Think about the times you were out of school on these breaks. Write about a time when you had fun during your break from school.

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## If I had a Hundred Dollars...

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

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Imagine that you have \$100 to use in any way that you would like. What would you do with the money and why?

## Influencing an American Hero

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

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How would history have been different if Abraham Lincoln or Martin Luther King, Jr. had not spoken up for people's rights? Imagine if they had decided that it was all too risky and too hard to change the way people thought. It would have been much easier if someone from the future had been able to go back in time to encourage them to make the right decision. Imagine that you could be the one to do that.

Write a story about your time-travel adventure when you went back in time to an American hero's side to encourage him or her to take a risk to secure freedom for others. Describe what you took back with you to show your hero the future consequences of his or her actions.



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## Learning a New Skill

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Think of a time when you learned how to do something new or taught someone a new skill. Maybe it was a new sport or playing a new instrument. What happened? What did you find difficult about learning or teaching this new skill?

Write a story about learning or teaching a new skill.

## Locked in a Department Store

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Gabrielle and her two friends are shopping at the local mall. While shopping in a department store, they notice that it starts getting late. They are told that the mall is closing, but they lose track of time. Now the exit doors are locked, and they are locked in the store with no way out!

Think about the girls being locked in the department store, and write a story about what happens next.

## Only Ten Inches Tall!

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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What would happen if you woke up and discovered that you were only 10 inches tall? How did you become so small? How did you spend your day? What did you do? Where did you go? What were some problems you faced as a small person? How did it feel to be so small? How did you return to your normal size?

Write a story about your day as a really small person in a way that allows the reader to understand what it feels like to be a tiny person in a giant world.

## Spaceship Trip through the Universe

---

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

---

Imagine a spaceship that could take you anywhere in the universe. You have a ticket for this spaceship and can make several stops during your trip.

Write a story about what happens from the time you get on the spaceship until it returns to Earth. Include descriptions of the stops you make along the way.

## Stranded on an Island

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

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Imagine that you and your friends are stranded on an island. What would you do to find food? How would you get water? Where would you live? Write a story in which you describe how you and your friends would work together to help each other survive.

## When Someone Helped Me

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

---

Throughout our lives, we all need help from others from time to time. Think about a time when you needed help. Who helped you?

Write a story about a time when a person helped you when you were struggling or in trouble.

## Your Life as a Drop of Water

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

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You are a water drop. Write a story that describes your life as a gas, a liquid, and a solid. Start from the time you were water vapor in the clouds, and then describe what it was like to fall to the ground as rain. Finally, tell the reader how you then became an icicle!

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## Pilot Prompts

### A Change that has Occurred in Your Life

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Change happens many times in our lives. Think about a time when there was a change in your life. This change could have occurred years ago or just days ago. How did you feel about this change in your life?

In a detailed essay, write about a change that has occurred in your life and how you felt about this change. Be sure to include facts and details about the situation and your feelings.

### Adventures as a Cowhand

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Throughout the 1800s, many Americans moved westward to explore the great frontier. During this time, many of these people started to take care of herds of cows, primarily for the milk and hides they provided. These people became known as “cowhands,” “cowboys,” and “cowgirls.”

Imagine you want to become a “cowhand.” Think of the tools you would need and the challenges you would face. Write a story about your adventures as a “cowhand” during the westward movement.

### An Uncomfortable Outfit

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine a situation or recall a time when you wore something you did not like or did not want to wear. Why did you have to wear it and how did it make you feel?

Write a story in which you describe what happened when you had to wear something you didn't want to wear.

## Behavior in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: 900L-1000L

Source One: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* By Barbara Robinson  
Source Lexile Level: 930L

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

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*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, a novel by Barbara Robinson, tells the story of the poorly behaved children of the Herdman family, who discover the true meaning of Christmas through participation in a church play. Because the Herdman children were usually troublemakers, they took the audience by surprise with their positive performances in the Christmas pageant. Have you ever been surprised by something unexpected that someone did or was able to do?

In a detailed personal narrative, write about a time when someone surprised you with something they did or were able to do that you would normally not expect from them. Use facts and examples for support.

## Blind for a Day

---

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

Many famous people have lived their lives without the ability to see and accomplished great things using their other senses. Helen Keller, Ray Charles, and Louis Braille are some famous names that come to mind.

Imagine living without the sense of sight. Write a story in which you describe what it would be like to be blind and to rely on your other senses for a day.

## Changes in an Eroding Cliff

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

We know that moving water erodes landforms, reshaping the land by taking it away from some places and depositing it as pebbles, sand, silt, and mud in other places (weathering, transport, and deposition). Imagine that you are a cliff. Describe what it would be like to be beaten by waves every day. Are you eroding? What does it feel like, and is your appearance changing?

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## Choose a Duck

---

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

**Source One:** "Floating Duck" 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.

## Cloud Narrative

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

Imagine that you are playing outside with your friends when you look up at the sky. What do the clouds look like? How does one cloud look different from another? Is it a clear, bright, sunny day or a dreary, rainy day? Do the clouds' shapes remind you of anything?

Write a story about the different clouds that you might see while playing outside. Combine facts and imagination in your story.

## Comedy in Kindergarten

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 420L

**Source One:** **The Junie B. Jones Book Series** By Barbara Park, illustrated by Denise Brunkus  
**Source Lexile Level:** 420L

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

---

Junie B. Jones gets confused by a lot of things in kindergarten, like the Pledge of Allegiance, which makes her say and do very funny things. What things confused you when you were in Kindergarten? Were you able to laugh about your confusion?

In a well-developed personal narrative, write about something that confused you in kindergarten and how you handled your confusion.

## Coming to America

---

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

---

Making the journey from Europe to America has gone through many changes since the first settlers arrived. Only a few generations ago, most families made the trip by ship, which often took many weeks. Now, many families travel by airplane, which only takes a few hours. Past and present journeys from Europe to America had their risks, dangers, and adventures.

In a well-developed story, tell the tale of a family coming to America. Include details appropriate to the time period in which the family traveled that will make the journey come alive for the reader.

## Competing Against a Friend

---

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: 800L-900L

**Source One:** *Moon Runner* By Carolyn Marsden  
**Source Lexile Level:** 930L

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

---

Sometimes you have to compete against a friend or friends, as Mina does in Carolyn Marsden's novel *Moon Runner*. This competition can affect your friendships, even if you don't want it to.

Think about a time when you or someone you know had to compete against a friend. It could have been in a sports game, for a part in a play, or even a student government election. In a multi-paragraph personal narrative, write about what happened. Be sure to include how competing against each other made you and your friend feel, what ended up happening as a result, and how your friendship was affected.

## Control the Weather for a Day

---

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

---

Imagine that for one day, you can control the weather. What kind of weather would you bring to your city? How would people react? Write a story that tells about what happens on the day that you control the weather in your city.

## Create Your Own Tall Tale

---

<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
--------------------------	---	-----------------------------	-----

<b>Source One:</b>	“Hank Heads West”
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A

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

---

Some believe that tall tales originated from bragging contests held between the rough-and-tumble people of the early frontier. The main characters in tall tales are capable of great and unbelievable feats, and the stories are told as if they are true-life stories. Read the "Hank Heads West" in the prompt passage or think about a character from a tall tale that you have read. What traits make the main character likeable or unlikable to you? Is the character capable of unbelievable feats?

In a multi-paragraph story, make up your own tall tale. Be sure to describe a character capable of doing unbelievable things, possibly to the point of being a hero. Include details that make your story larger than life.

## Discovering a New Habitat

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In the 18th and early 19th centuries, naturalists were busy collecting and naming many new species of plants and animals. Journals were a popular form of recording their new discoveries, and naturalists wrote detailed descriptions of the new habitats they were exploring. Imagine that you are an 18th century naturalist and that you have just come upon a new habitat. What types of plants and animals might you find? How would they relate to each other and the habitat?

Write a journal entry as a naturalist about your discovery of a new habitat and its life forms. Include facts and details to describe the habitat.

## Dump the Tea into Boston Harbor

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine that you joined the Boston Tea Party. Write a journal entry describing what it was like to disguise yourself as a Native American, to sneak onto the docks at night, and then dump the tea into Boston Harbor. Be sure to pay attention to the sights, sounds, feelings, and smells of this adventure.

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## Early Entrepreneur

---

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

---

Settlers had a big influence on the economy of your local area in the past, and their influence is still evident today. Step into the shoes of one of the early entrepreneurs and tell the story of who you are, where you came from, why you settled in the area, and how you affected the economy.

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## Exciting School Announcement

---

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

---

Imagine someone made an exciting announcement at school. Write about the announcement and what happened next.

## Going to a Concert

---

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

---

You have received a gift from a relative: front-row tickets to a performance in your town by your favorite musical group. You can take someone with you to the concert and you will meet the group following the concert. Write a story about your experience.

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## Helping in the Community

---

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

---

We help people in our community in many ways. Think about an experience that you had helping someone in your community. Write a personal narrative that tells about your experience. Include details that help the reader relive your time helping someone in your community.

## If You Were an Animal for a Day

---

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

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Imagine you are any animal you want to be for a day. Write about where you live and what you do. Be sure to include details in your story.

## If You Were Invisible

---

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

---

Imagine one day you wake up and discover you are invisible. Write to describe where you go and what you do.

## I'm Not Giving Up

---

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

---

**Source One:** *Riding Freedom* By Pam Muñoz Ryan and illustrated by Brian Selznick  
**Source Lexile Level:** 720L

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

---

In the novel *Riding Freedom*, written by Pam Muñoz Ryan and illustrated by Brian Selznick, Charlotte has to prove to Frank and James that she can still drive a stagecoach even though she is blind in one eye. Her determination helps her keep her job.

Think about a time when you had to show determination because someone did not think you could do something. It may have been a sport, making a play, or getting a good grade on a test. Write a detailed story about a time when you had to show

determination. Be sure to use details that tell what you had to do to prove yourself to others.

## Imagine Something Wonderful Happened to You...

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine something wonderful happened to you. Write to describe your experience.

## Imagine That You are an Artist

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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You have just seen artwork by (name of artist). Imagine that you are this artist. Describe what inspired you to create this work of art and your experience while creating the artwork.

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## Imagine You are a Musical Instrument

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Choose an instrument that you like. Imagine you are that instrument. What do you sound like? Write about your musical adventure in a band or orchestra.

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## Imagine You Found a Spaceship

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine you and a friend found a spaceship. The door opened and you looked inside. Write about what happened.

## Imagine Yourself as a Superhero

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

---

Imagine yourself as a superhero. You might be able to see through walls, fly, or swim like a fish.

Write about your superhuman power and what happens when you use it.

## Importance of Exercise for Good Health

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

---

Sometime you might hear that a family member or close friend of the family has had an illness such as a heart attack. Write a real or imaginative story that explains why you believe exercise is important and how a person can avoid having a heart attack in the future.

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## In the Museum

---

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

**Source One:** "Museum" 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.

## Journey through the Digestive System

---

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

---

After we eat, the food we swallow goes on a journey through the organs in our body. Imagine you are a piece of food being eaten by a human being. What type of food are you? Which organs would you pass through? What would happen to you in those

organs?

Choose a food, describe its personality, and write a multi-paragraph story about its journey through the organs of the human digestive system. Include facts and details to support the story of your journey and ensure its accuracy.

## Lost in a Museum

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Jon and his classmates are on a field trip visiting a museum in Washington, D.C., when suddenly, Jon and his two best friends realize that they have lost the rest of their group. They walk around the museum hoping to find their group, but they are out of luck; they cannot find their teacher or classmates anywhere!

Think about Jon and his friends being lost in the museum, and write a story about what happens next.

## Mirror

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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**Source One:** "Mirror" 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.

## Monitoring a Storm

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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There are many factors, such as air pressure, humidity, wind speed, and direction, which cause weather. Different combinations of these factors cause different weather patterns from calm, sunny days to windy, stormy days. Imagine that you are a meteorologist at a weather station responsible for collecting data from weather-monitoring equipment. What types of information would the equipment provide on a stormy day? How would that information be different on a sunny day? Write a story as a meteorologist describing a day at a weather station during a major storm. Include facts and details in your story.

## Owning Your Own Toy Company

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

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Imagine that you suddenly wake up one morning and find yourself the owner of a toy company. Write a story about what happens next.

## Package from Someone Special

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

---

Imagine you received a package in the mail from a special person. Using details, write about what happened when you opened the package.

## Participate in a School Competition

---

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

---

Schools offer students many opportunities to participate in academic, athletic, or individual talent competitions throughout the school year. Some examples of these opportunities are spelling bees, science fairs, races, and talent shows.

Imagine you have decided to enter a contest at your school. Write a story that details your experience preparing for and participating in the event. Be sure to include the outcome, so readers will know how you did!

## Pizza Illustrates Fractions

---

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

---

Gina was enjoying her birthday party until the pizzas arrived. Gina's mom ordered enough pizza so that each guest could eat half a pizza each. Some pizzas were cut into four slices and others were cut into eight slices. A big argument broke out when some kids who got  $\frac{2}{4}$  of a pizza thought they weren't getting as much as the kids who got  $\frac{4}{8}$ ! Write the dialogue for this crazy party scene. As the scene progresses, decide who shows the guests that they all have equal amounts of pizza.

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## Rescued by My Favorite Character

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

Imagine you need to be rescued. Why? Are you in an embarrassing situation, or perhaps, a dangerous one? Think about a character from a book, television show, movie, or video game who has the courage to rescue you.

Write a story about the imagined situation and how your favorite character rescues you. Be sure to include details that help the readers picture the scenes in their minds.

## Ride in a Talking, Flying Car

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

Imagine your friend has a car that talks and flies. The car can do other amazing things too. Your friend takes you for a ride. Write to tell what happened when your friend took you for a ride in the car.

## Saving for a Bicycle

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

James begins working and saves his money to buy a certain bicycle he has seen in the local bike shop. When James finally earns enough money to buy the bicycle, he returns to the shop to find that the bicycle has been sold.

Think about the situation James is in, and write a story about what happens next.

## Saving the U.S. Constitution

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

Imagine that you get to take a field trip to visit the actual U.S. Constitution in Washington, D.C. Write a story about how you got there, how you felt as you viewed this document in its glass case and what happened when your teacher went crazy and tried to break the glass! How will you convince her not to destroy this piece of U.S. history?

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## Searching for a Hidden Passageway

---

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

---

Imagine you find an old letter tucked inside a library book. The letter reveals that there is a hidden passageway somewhere at your school. Write about your search for the passageway and where it leads.

## Statue of Liberty

---

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

**Source One:** “Statue of Liberty” 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.

## Story about a Talking Fish

---

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

---

Imagine a fish popped its head out of the water and said something.

What would you do? Write a story about what happened. Be sure to include details in your story.

## Story Using an Advertising Character

---

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

---

We are all familiar with the various characters that companies use to advertise their products. We remember and like these characters because they are funny, cool, sweet, or have an unusual characteristic. Do you have a favorite advertising character? Can you imagine an adventure involving this character?

In a detailed essay, write a story involving an advertising character of your choice. Include details to make your story interesting.

## Stuck at the Grand Canyon

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

A group of tourists have taken a bus trip to the Grand Canyon. At the end of the day, when the group gets back on the bus to leave, the engine will not start. With the bus broken down, the group is now stranded at the Grand Canyon.

Think about how this problem will affect the tourists, and write a story about what happens next.

## Taking Care of a Pet

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

---

Pets require a lot of care and love to keep them healthy and happy. Parents sometimes make their children prove that they can be responsible before they will agree to get a family pet. Even when we do our best to care for our pets, they sometimes find themselves in dangerous or adventurous situations.

In a well-developed story, tell of the adventure or responsibility of caring for a pet. Include facts, details, and examples to make the story seem real to the reader.

## The Gate with the Golden Key

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Imagine one day you were outside and came across a vine-covered stone wall. In the middle of the wall was a locked wooden gate with a golden key hanging next to it. Using details, write a story about what happened.

## The Landfill Dwellers

---

**Prompt Source(s):** 1

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** “Shanty Town” 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.

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## The Tale of the Talking Spider

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

---

Imagine that you are walking down the sidewalk and you almost step on a spider. Suddenly, the spider begins to talk to you. Write a detailed story about what happens next.

## The Waiting Room

---

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

Source One: "Waiting Room" 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.

## The Worst Day of School

---

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

---

All of us can think of a time when we had a bad day while at school. Think about the worst day of school you have ever experienced. What happened to make this day so terrible?

Write a story about your worst day of school ever. Include details and examples that will help the reader relive the day with you.

## Tornado by Betsy Byars

---

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: 600L-700L

Source One: *Tornado* By Betsy Byars  
Source Lexile Level: 610L

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

---

At the end of the book, Pete promises to tell the story about Tornado and the rooster "next time." The author of *Tornado* has not written this story yet, but you can! You read



[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.

### Trip Through the Circulatory System in a Capsule

<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
----------------------------	---------------------------------

Imagine that scientists have found a way to make you and a protective observation capsule microscopic in size. You and the capsule are injected into the bloodstream of a living person's body. Write the story of your adventure as you circulate through the heart chambers, lungs, and body.

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### Visit by a Famous Person

<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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Imagine a helicopter with a famous person on board landed near your school. The person was coming to visit your class. Who was the person, and what happened when he or she came to your classroom?

### “We are the Champions”: Tell the Story of a Champion

<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> NP
----------------------------	--------------------------------

**Source One:** “We are the Champions” By the rock band *Queen*  
**Source Lexile Level:** NP

The song “We are the Champions” by Queen tells the story of a champion, describing what he/she and his/her friends had to go through to be successful. Think about how the words of the song describe the speaker's struggles and what the speaker had to do to become a champion. Tell the story of someone you know who has also had to struggle to become a champion. What are some of the challenges they had to face? What did they do to triumph over those obstacles?

## Wearing Helmets of Unlike Magnetic Poles

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

We know that magnets have two poles (north and south), and that like poles repel each other and unlike poles attract each other. Imagine that you and a friend are magnetic, wearing helmets of unlike poles. What is it like to walk around together? Is it comfortable? Be sure to describe what happens and how it feels.

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## What Would You Do if School Closes?

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

Imagine your school closes for the day, and you can do anything you want. What will you do? Write a story about what happens.

## When an Hour Felt Like a Day

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

We know that there are 60 minutes in an hour and twenty-four hours in a day, but sometimes an hour can feel like a day! Describe a time an hour felt like a day to you.

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## When I Received Something Special

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

Think about a time when you received something special. It might have been a gift, a party, a special vacation, a certificate, or a sports trophy. Write a personal narrative about a time when you received something special. Include details that tell the reader why this was so special.

## When Something was Subtracted from Your Life

---

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

---

Sometimes something is added to your life like a new book and that makes you very happy. Sometimes something is subtracted from your life and it makes you sad. Describe a time when something you liked was subtracted from your life.

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## When You Open the Door...

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

---

Suppose a door suddenly appears as you are walking down the hall. Write about what happens when you open the door.

## Whispering

---

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

Source One: "Whisper" 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.

## Why Are Things Disappearing?

---

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

---

Things have been disappearing from your classroom. Write a mystery story that tells what is happening. Include characters, plot, conflict, and resolution to complete your story.

## Writing a Myth about Earth's Creation

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

Myths are created when people cannot explain a natural phenomenon, like the creation of Earth. Some plays and myths, such as Skywoman's Rescue, use animals to explain how Earth was created.

Write a myth about Earth's creation. Use details and dialogue when appropriate to make your myth and characters come to life.

## Your Life as a Rose

---

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

---

You were a beautiful rose growing in a garden. Someone picked you and took you away from your roots and the sunlight. You could no longer get your nutrients and water from the soil. What happened to you after that? Where were you taken, and how did you feel? Write a story describing your life as a rose.

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

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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)

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### IntelliMetric™

N/A<sup>1</sup>

### Pilot

*Choose a Duck*  
*Create Your Own Tall Tale*  
*In the Museum*  
*Mirror*  
*Statue of Liberty*  
*The Landfill Dwellers*  
*The Waiting Room*  
*Traveling in a Jet*  
*Tree Climber*  
*"We are the Champions": Tell the Story of a Champion*  
*Whispering*

---



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

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### IntelliMetric™

N/A<sup>1</sup>

### Pilot

*Behavior in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

*Comedy in Kindergarten*

*Competing Against a Friend*

*I'm Not Giving Up*

*Tornado by Betsy Byars*

---

## Appendix III: Quotation-based Prompts

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IntelliMetric™

N/A<sup>1</sup>

Pilot

N/A<sup>1</sup>

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

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### IntelliMetric™

*A Bus Trip to Anywhere - Improved*  
*A Day at the Zoo*  
*A Day With Columbus, Pilgrims or Native Americans*  
*A Funny Thing*  
*A Good Deed*  
*A New Invention or Discovery*  
*A Special Day*  
*A Train That Can Go Anywhere!*  
*A Trunk in the Attic*  
*A Vivid Childhood Memory*  
*A World Without Gravity*  
*Adventure in a Blackout*  
*Adventures in a Haunted Mansion*  
*An Exciting or Funny Experience*  
*An Exciting Time*  
*Bad Manners*  
*Celebrating a Special Day with Family Traditions*  
*Continue This Story*  
*Favorite Character*  
*Fractured Fairy Tales*  
*Fun During a Break from School*  
*If I Had A Hundred Dollars...*  
*Influencing an American Hero*  
*Learning a New Skill*  
*Locked in a Department Store*  
*Only Ten Inches Tall!*  
*Spaceship Trip Through the Universe*  
*Stranded on an Island*  
*When Someone Helped Me*  
*Your Life as a Drop of Water*

### Pilot

*A Change that has Occurred in Your Life*  
*Adventures as a Cowhand*  
*An Uncomfortable Outfit*  
*Blind for a Day*  
*Changes in an Eroding Cliff*  
*Cloud Narrative*  
*Coming to America*  
*Control the Weather for a Day*  
*Discovering a New Habitat*  
*Dump the Tea into Boston Harbor*  
*Early Entrepreneur*

*Exciting School Announcement*  
*Going to a Concert*  
*Greedy Jeor and the Magic Cave*  
*Helping in the Community*  
*If You Were an Animal for a Day*  
*If You Were Invisible*  
*Imagine Something Wonderful Happened to You...*  
*Imagine That You are an Artist*  
*Imagine You are a Musical Instrument*  
*Imagine You Found a Spaceship*  
*Imagine Yourself as a Superhero*  
*Importance of Exercise for Good Health*  
*Journey through the Digestive System*  
*Lost in a Museum*  
*Monitoring a Storm*  
*Owning Your Own Toy Company*  
*Package from Someone Special*  
*Participate in a School Competition*  
*Pizza Illustrates Fractions*  
*Rescued by My Favorite Character*  
*Ride in a Talking, Flying Car*  
*Saving for a Bicycle*  
*Saving the U.S. Constitution*  
*Searching for a Hidden Passageway*  
*Story About a Talking Fish*  
*Story Using an Advertising Character*  
*Stuck at the Grand Canyon*  
*Taking Care of a Pet*  
*The Gate with the Golden Key*  
*The Tale of the Talking Spider*  
*The Worst Day of School*  
*Transformations Through the Food Chain*  
*Treasure Hunt with a Talking Parrot*  
*Trip Through the Circulatory System in a Capsule*  
*Visit By a Famous Person*  
*Wearing Helmets of Unlike Magnetic Poles*  
*What Would You Do if School Closes?*  
*When an Hour Felt Like a Day*  
*When I Received Something Special*  
*When Something was Subtracted from Your Life*  
*When You Open the Door...*  
*Why Are Things Disappearing?*  
*Writing a Myth about Earth's Creation*  
*Your Life as a Rose*

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