Winter Writing Prompts

Kindergarten-Grade 2

There are many fun things to do and see in the winter. Whether you celebrate with outdoor activities such as sledding and skiing or by curling up indoors with a hot cup of cocoa, the snowiest season has something for everyone to enjoy! With these winter-themed writing prompts, children can draw inspiration from their favorite winter activities and practice valuable writing skills at the same time.

Practicing responding to creative writing prompts can help students strengthen skills such as crafting a narrative, establishing a clear sequence of events, developing an argument, and more. Creative writing can also help young students develop stronger reading skills, especially when they are encouraged to read their written responses aloud.

This guide includes fall-themed creative fiction and nonfiction writing prompts for children in Kindergarten-Grade 2. These prompts would be appropriate for use in the home as well as for classroom use. The prompts were written to encourage responders to draw from various literacy skills included in the Common Core ELA Writing Standards.

Reflection and Feedback—Suggestions for Caregivers and Educators

When administering these prompts, provide children with ample time to respond thoroughly and carefully. After writing, there are a few different feedback methods that may be helpful.

Independent Reflection

- Encourage writers to go back over what they have written to check for spelling, grammar, or logical errors.
- Encourage writers to read their written responses aloud. Some may have an easier time hearing mistakes than seeing them on the page.

Peer Feedback

- If multiple children are participating in this activity, encourage them to read one another's responses. Then, have them share what they liked about the other writers' responses, and any questions they have about them.

Caregiver/Educator Feedback

- Read over the responses. Check for the following elements:
  - Do their responses effectively address the question of the prompt?
  - Did they structure their narratives with a clear progression of events and/or ideas?
  - Did they successfully implement narrative techniques such as dialogue, descriptive language, and sensory details?
  - Do they back up any argumentative claims with logical supporting details?
  - Do their responses include clear and effective conclusions?
  - Did they demonstrate repeated or consistent mechanical errors, such as issues with spelling, sentence structure, or punctuation? If so, provide corrective feedback.
- Pick one or two areas of feedback to highlight for your writers and take time to discuss them together. You may be able to find additional resources on the web to provide practice opportunities in particular areas where improvement is needed. Be sure to also point out a few things that they are doing well in their writing

Lastly, celebrate the writing process! Encourage writers to share their responses with friends, family members, and other loved ones. Perhaps they could send a handwritten copy of their response to a grandparent or call up a cousin and read what they wrote over the phone. And if a writer seems passionate about a specific prompt or topic, encourage them to keep writing about it, either via more guided practice or as something to do in their free time!

Additional Resources

- For more information on writing prompts, read our: Understanding and Responding to Writing Prompts Guide.
- For more information on the benefits of at-home writing practice, see our blog post titled "Literacy Education at Home: Approaches for Practicing Reading and Writing" by Laura Szech, M.A., and Dr. Deborah K. Reed.

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Writing Prompts

The writing prompts that are listed below are also included on the pages that follow on lined sheets you can print and hand out to children to write their responses.

Fiction

Write a story about a snowman who comes to life. What does he say? What does he do? Be sure to use lots of details.

Write a story about a child who is trying ice skating for the first time. What do they wear? Where do they go? Who do they skate with? Do they fall down? Be sure to use lots of details.

Pretend that you are a penguin living in icy Antarctica. What do you see? What kinds of things do you do? Be sure to use lots of details.

Write a story about an elf who works at the North Pole. What is life like for this character? What do they do every day? Be sure to use lots of details.

Have you ever made a gingerbread house? Picture the fanciest gingerbread house you can. Write a story telling about it. What does it look like? What kinds of candy is it made of? Be sure to use lots of details.

Nonfiction

Write a paragraph telling about your favorite things to do in the snow. For example, do you like to sled? Do you like to make snow angels? Do you like to play with friends? Do you do other things? Be sure to use lots of details.

What does your family do in the winter? For example, do you put up a tree? Do you cook something special? Do you light a menorah? Do you visit family? Pick one thing your family does in the winter. Write as much as you can about it. Be sure to use lots of details.

Do you like the cold winter weather? Or do you wish it would stay warm all year? Explain your answer with lots of details.

Brrr! It’s cold outside! Sometimes in the winter, it is better to play inside. What are some of your favorite things to do inside? Do you play board games? Do you build a fort? Do you make art? Or do you do something else? Explain your answer with lots of details.

Many people bake cookies in the winter. What is your favorite cookie? What does it look, smell, and taste like? Why do you like it? Explain your answers with lots of details.

IOWA READING RESEARCH CENTER

Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

Grades: K-2 **Category**: Fiction

Name: _____ **Date**: _____

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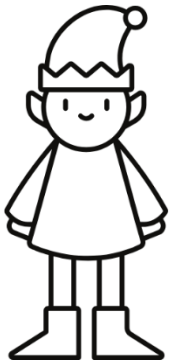

IOWA READING RESEARCH CENTER

Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

Grades: K-2 **Category**: Fiction

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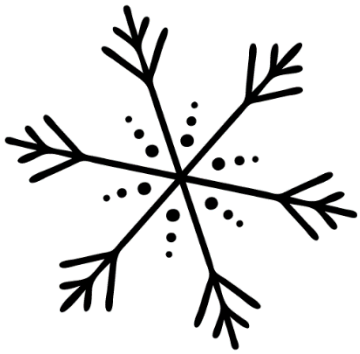

IOWA READING RESEARCH CENTER

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Grades: K-2 **Category**: Nonfiction

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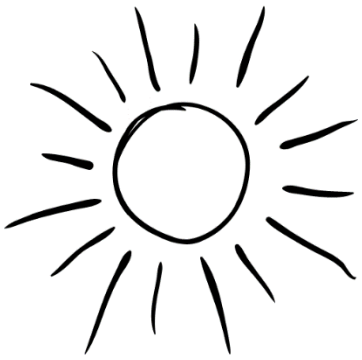

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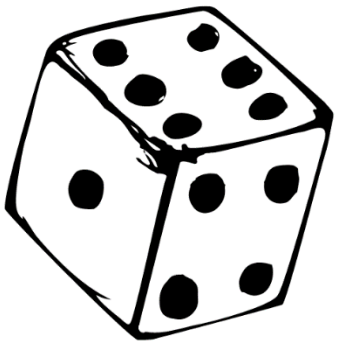

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