

# Grades K-3 Narrative

## Common Quarterly Writing Prompts

### Multiple Years 2016-2021

**Purpose:** *The purpose of the on-demand prompt as an assessment of writing is to provide a snapshot of what a student can do with a particular prompt, limited time and space, and without teacher input (unless the standard recognizes support from the teacher is developmentally appropriate). This assessment does not encompass all the forms of assessment students should experience in writing. The standard-referenced writing rubrics should be used throughout the school year for instruction and assessment purposes.*

**Standards Assessed: W3, L1, L2**

#### **Administration:**





- The purpose of the prompt is as an assessment. Refrain from doing teaching, editing, or additional prewriting activities with students.
- Post and read the writing prompt.
- Reread the prompt as needed for individual or groups of students.
- Apply all modifications and accommodations as indicated in IEP, ELL, and 504 plans.
- Have the student complete one draft with no final copy.
- Writing assessment may be broken up into shorter sessions of prewriting, drawing, and writing, but the writing portion should be confined to one session. For example, a teacher might choose to have students prepare their graphic organizer (20 minutes), then write (30) and draw for (10 minutes).
- Students should have access to any writing tools normally available to them during writing time (i.e., word walls, word banks, writing folders, desk dictionaries, etc.).
- If students need more time to finish their paper at the end of the writing period, you may allow them a reasonable amount of time to finish their writing, provided they are making continual progress and it is all in one sitting. An example of an **appropriate** time extension could be at the end of the writing period two students are still actively writing their story. Allow them to move to a quiet location to independently finish their work before recess (10-20 minutes). An example of an **inappropriate** time extension could be a student becomes frustrated by the writing and they are allowed to pick up where they left off the next day.
- At the end of the writing session, check all students' writing to ensure that you can read their writing. If not, have the student read their writing back to you as you transcribe their writing.
- If a student had more that they wanted to write but were unable, either due to skill or time constraint, the teacher may record a dictation of anything else they wanted to add. The teacher may NOT prompt the student to say more.
- Use attached rubric to score the writing prompt.


## The Day before Assessment Administration:

### 1) Choose the prompt for this year and read it to your students:

- a. **School Year fall 2016:** “Tell about a time that you have helped out family or friends similar to the children in the pictures below.”
- b. **School Year fall 2017:** “Make up a story about what is happening outside the window that has captured the attention of the little girl.”
- c. **School Year fall 2018:** “Listen to the sample of music. From the feelings this music generates, create a story. Bring all of the elements of narrative writing into your story.” Have students listen to the piece, then discuss possible settings. Continue listening and generate a list of possible characters. Students then take these ideas to generate a narrative story containing the elements of narrative writing.
- d. **School Year fall 2019:** “Write about your first day of school. How did you feel? What did you do? What surprised you?”
- e. **School Year fall 2020:** “The door opened, and...” (see the picture below)
- f. **School Year fall 2021:** Give the students some medium such as clay, Legos, Model Magic, or any 3D product to create a make-believe character, then write a story about it. Say: “Imagine an adventure your character will have and tell about it from beginning to end.”

### 2) Suggested resources for teachers and/or students to use to introduce the topic:

a.	 <p><a href="#">Click here</a> for larger image.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Click here</a> for larger image.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Click here</a> for larger image.</p>
b.	 <p><a href="#">Click Here for Larger Image</a></p>		

c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Audio Micro</a> (click on the menu item “Royalty Free Music”)</li> <li>• YouTube Playlists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Coffeehouse Music</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Where the Wild Things Are Soundtrack</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Children Instrumental Happy Music Mix</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
F.	 <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click here</a> for larger image.</p>

### The Day of Assessment Administration say to your students:

1) **Before you begin the assessment, say to the students:**

*“We are about to begin our writing. The results of your writing will be used to help me teach you writing this year.”*

2) **Read the appropriate prompt from the list above to your students.**

3) **Give student 5 minutes to discuss in pairs or small groups.**

4) **“Now you are going to have 10 minutes to draw a picture to illustrate (fill in the blank).”**

5) **After 10 minutes the teacher will say:**

*“Our drawing time is finished. You have 20-30 minutes to write about the prompt (snowman, toy, animal). Remember to do your best work. You may use your tools as you go (i.e. word wall, alphabet charts, dictionaries). If you don’t know how to spell a word, try your best. I want to see what you can do on your own. Use your picture to help you.”*

*In your writing, make sure you:*

- *Introduce the topic you will write about.*
- *Include lots of details.*
- *Organize your writing.*
- *Use transition words.*
- *Write an ending.*

**6) After you read the prompt**

“This session is scheduled to be \_\_\_ minutes long. If you work steadily, you should be able to complete your work during this amount of time. When you finish your draft, use your time wisely to review your work. Do you have any questions?”

*\*Teachers: At your discretion, students who are finished before the session is over should move to activities that are appropriate for your classroom (reading, extension activities, etc.) Students may continue writing if they are on task with their writing.*

**7) Teachers can give students timed warning signals (adjust times accordingly)**

- a. Half way through the writing session (depending on time allotments).
- b. 10 minutes before the end of the writing session is complete
- c. 5 minutes before the writing session is complete

**8) The assessment time is complete**

“This is the end of the time scheduled for this writing assessment. Please put all of your writing in a neat stack. I will pick up your materials.

*\* At teacher discretion, students may continue writing if they are on task with their writing.*

## **FAQ's About the Kindergarten Common Assessment for Informative Writing**

- Paper may be lined or unlined. The writing paper may be enlarged to 11X17 for ease of student use.
- You may choose to use the writing paper included with this prompt, or another paper and/or graphic organizer that the children are familiar with in your classroom. Regardless of the paper used, the piece should represent first draft writing (pictures and writing done in a single sitting).
- The response should include a picture (or pictures) and whatever sentences, words, or letters the child can add.
- Students should be given time and encouraged to add details to their illustrations as another means of communicating information to the reader.
- Verbal cues are permitted. Students may be reminded of strategies and students can be directed to use classroom resources. However, recording dictation or providing tracers is not allowed until after the student has finished their independent writing.
- To facilitate scoring the paper, have each student read their piece aloud to their teacher after they have finished and record their words as they read it back to you. Note whether there is correspondence as they track the words with their finger.
- After the student has done all the writing they can do independently and has read back their writing to you (see below), then you or another adult may take a dictation of other sentences or words they wanted to say. Be sure that your writing will not be confused with theirs (i.e. write on a sticky note, or at the bottom of the page in small, neat print.)