

ENGLISH BINDER: WRITING SECTION

F

Response Requirements

Answers to these prompts can be written by hand or typed. If typed, you must print out your response, as it will not be accepted electronically. All responses must be placed in the WRITING section of the binder, with the newest responses being placed first.

Hand Written	Typed
Header: Date (MM/DD/YY), Prompt Name	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 paragraphs or about 200 words • About half a page 	
Grammatically sound	
Legible, neat, NO CURSIVE	Times New Roman
	1" Margins

Literary analysis prompts

1. **Interesting quote:** Find a quote from the current text that you are reading. Select an interesting quote and explain why this quote is important/interesting. What literary devices are used in it? What significance does it have to you or to the text?
2. **Symbols/Archetypes:** Discuss the symbols or archetypes present in the current text that you are reading. Provide evidence from the text by quoting relevant passages. What does the symbol represent? Why?
3. **Literary Devices:** Look at the glossary of literary devices. What literary devices are present in the the text that you are currently reading? How do these devices enhance the text? Provide at least one quote from the text.
4. **A New Ending:** Write a new ending for the story or novel that you just finished reading. You must imitate as many aspects of the writer's styles as you can.
5. **A Letter to a Character:** Write a letter to one of the characters in the text you just finished. Discuss a topic that is of interest to you, or ask the character questions that bother you. Give advice.
6. **A Letter from a Character:** One of the characters in the story is your friend. He or she is writing to tell you about an event in the story. Imitate that character's voice as much as possible.
7. **Text-to-self connection:** How does the text relate to your own life? How does this connection deepen your understanding of this text? Explain.
8. **Text-to-text connection:** How does the text connect to another text? How does this connection deepen your understanding of the text? Explain.
9. **Text-to-world connection:** How does the text connect to a current/historical event? How does this connection deepen your understanding of the text? Explain.
10. **Model that Style:** Select a passage from a text that has interesting style (sentence structure, punctuation, etc.). Then, write your own passage on a topic of your choice and attempt to copy the same style of the original author.
11. **Question and Answer:** What questions do you have about a text? Brainstorm a list of questions to discuss with the class.
12. **Topics and Themes:** Make a list of topics and themes for a text. Select one to write about using textual evidence.
13. **List it!:** Make a list of everything you associate with the text. People, places, things, and ideas. How do these associations deepen your understanding of the text?

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14. **Tone:** What is the author's tone in the piece? Provide evidence in the form of quotes. Explain your answer thoroughly.
 15. **Diary Entry:** Write a diary entry from the perspective of a character in the story. In your diary entry, reveal the character's goals and the obstacles that stand in the way.
 16. **Poetry Time:** Condense the literary elements (characters, plot, setting, style, point of view, and theme) of a short story or novel into a 20-line poem. Then, write a reflective paragraph that explains how your poem communicates the literary elements of the original story.
 17. **Conflict:** What is the central conflict in the text that you are currently reading? What might be the possible resolution? Support your answer with quotes from the text.
 18. **Interview:** Pretend that you are a reporter for a famous publication such as The New Yorker, and you have been asked to interview a character from a short story or novel. Recreate this fictitious interview by writing five interview questions and answering them in the voice of the character.
 19. **Essay Free writing:** Before beginning a new essay, it is a good idea to do some "free writing" on the topic. This will help you to explore your ideas on the topic before narrowing it down to a single thesis statement. During free writing, don't worry about structure, grammar, or organization... just allow yourself the chance to explore the topic freely and see what new ideas you discover.
 20. **Reader Response:** Write a one-page response to the assigned reading. What did you think about what you read? What was your reaction? What do you think will happen next?
 21. **Prompt Time!:** Brainstorm three essay prompts for a piece of literature. Then, select one of your prompts and draft a new essay using textual evidence.
 22. **Debate Time!:** Create a yes/no or agree/disagree T-chart in response to your teacher's debate prompt. Provide at least three pieces of evidence for each side of the chart. Then, select one side of the debate and write a one-page statement arguing your side using textual evidence.
 23. **Advice:** Explain a character's problem and then offer your character advice on how to solve his/her problem.
 24. **Motivation:** Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.
 25. **Predictions:** From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.
 26. **Friends?:** Pick one character and explain why you would/would not like to have him/her as a friend.
 27. **Setting:** Describe and explain why you would/would not like to have lived in the time or place of the story.
 28. **Setting Switch:** What would happen if the setting of the story was switched? Explain how the setting of this piece is integral to the plot of the story or to the characters. Include one quote as evidence.
 29. **Visitor:** Write about what would happen if you brought one of your characters to school or home for a day.
 30. **Rewrite:** Pick a scene in which you disagreed how a character handled a situation/person and rewrite it in the way you think it should have happened.
 31. **Good Characteristics:** What quality of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
 32. **Point of View:** Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why?
 33. **Point of View Switch:** How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?
 34. **Author's Motivation:** Why do you think the author wrote this story?
 35. **Cause and Effect:** How do the character's actions affect other people in the story?
 36. **About the Author:** Write to inform us about the author. What other articles and/or books has the

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- F author written? Is he/she one of your favorite authors, and if so, why?
37. **Irony:** If your work contains irony, explain how it is used and the effect that it has on the characters, plot, and on the reader. Use at least one quote to support your answer.
 38. **Character Comparison:** Compare and contrast one of the characters/people with another character/person from the work or from another work you have read.
 39. **Your Opinion:** Write about something the author said that you agree or disagree with. Explain why.
 40. **Title:** Write about the title of the work. Explain why you think the author named the work as he or she did. Give your opinion about the title.
 41. **Writing Prompts:** Come up with at least SIX writing prompts that could be added to this list. Three of the prompts should be for the literary section and three for the creative writing section.
 42. **Question Levels:** Come up with a question for each level of questioning. Answer your own questions:
 - a. **LEVEL ONE QUESTIONS:** These questions have a correct answer. They are fact-based questions that can begin with Who?
 - b. **LEVEL TWO QUESTIONS:** These questions are discussion and interpretation questions. They can begin with How? and Why? and can be answered in a few sentences. These questions can also look at what is implied by the text and what is suggested by reading between the lines.
 - c. **LEVEL THREE QUESTIONS:** These questions are broad/ universal discussion questions that look at overall theme and/or connections between the text and world or the text and other texts. Typically, level three questions do not necessarily have a right or wrong answer.

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Hand Written	Typed
Header: Date (MM/DD/YY), Prompt Name	
Centered Title: All creative writing entries must have an original, creative title	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 paragraphs or about 200 words, but entries can be longer. Longer pieces can count for multiple entries (every 2 paragraphs is one entry) • About half a page is considered one entry • You can work on one entry for several days, weeks, or months, as long as it is growing each time the notebook is checked. 	
Grammatically sound	
Legible, neat, NO CURSIVE	Times New Roman
	1" Margins

Creative Writing Prompt Requirements

Creative Writing Prompts

1. **Favorite quote:** Share a favorite quote. Explain its significance to you.
2. **Describe the Moment:** Stop what you are doing and look around. Now, describe what is happening and what you see as though you were an omniscient narrator at the start of a story. Use descriptive language and literary devices to help you along.
3. **Five senses:** Write a descriptive piece that uses all five senses to bring the reader in.
4. **Vignette:** Think of someone you know well. Describe that person in as much detail as possible, as though you are an author describing one of the main characters. Think not just of physical description, but also about personality, motivations, etc.
5. **Memory:** Think of an important memory. Now, describe that memory in as much sensory detail as possible.
6. **My favorite day:** Think of one of the best days in your life and describe it in sensory detail.
7. **My perfect mate:** Describe your ideal mate in detail.
8. **Write an A-Z Story:** Each new word must begin with a different letter of the American alphabet, in chronological order. Make sure your story has a proper plot structure.
9. **Rewriting with a new setting:** Rewrite part of a novel, play, or a story using a new setting.
10. **News of the Day:** Read today's news. Choose an interesting event and pretend that you are one of the people involved in the event. Now write a journal entry about that event from the perspective of that person.
11. **Alien Invader:** You are an undercover alien from another planet. Write a report to your superior explaining some of the interesting things that you have experienced on planet earth.
12. **Perfect Place:** Imagine the most perfect place. Now describe it using literary devices and colorful language.
13. **Nightmare:** You are having a nightmare. Describe it in full detail.
14. **Animal Point of View:** Write from the point of view of an animal.
15. **My greatest fears:** Describe your greatest fears and how you might overcome them.
16. **Letter to my future self:** Write a letter to your future self ten years from now. What do you want that person to remember and know?

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17. **Letter to my past self:** Write a letter to yourself as you were ten years ago. What would you tell your child self if you could?
18. **Letter to my past self:** Write a letter to yourself as you were ten years ago. What would you tell your child self if you could?
19. **Dolphins:** You wake up suddenly understanding dolphins. They tell you the meaning of life. What do the dolphins say?
20. **Autobiography & Memoir:** Write the story of your life beginning from birth, or write a memoir about a memorable time in your life.
21. **Escape:** You must leave your country forever in the next 24 hours. What do you take with you and why? Whom would you visit?
22. **A letter to someone:** There's someone that you have something important to say to. Write them a letter.
23. **Love Dialogue:** Write down a full page of dialogue between two people who have a crush on each other.
24. **Angry Dialogue:** Write down a full page of dialogue between two people who are angry with each other.
25. **For the record:** Got a world issue that you are passionate about? Research it and record facts, figures, and statistics to use in a piece of writing.
26. **Film it! :** Start a screenplay about a new movie idea.
27. **Poetry:** Write a series of poems about a topic, emotion, or life event that inspires you.
28. **Song Lyrics:** Try your hand at writing the lyrics to a new song. First, select the genre (country, rap, pop, etc.) and then select a topic/ theme. You can even model your song lyrics after the lyrics of an artist you admire.
29. **Short Story:** Write a new short story that explores a topic/theme that interests you.
30. **So, you think you're funny? :** Try your hand at writing original jokes. You can model your jokes after some of your favorite comedians and/or sitcoms.
31. **New Vocabulary:** Think you can invent a new word? Try to create a list of new vocabulary words for people to use in everyday language. Think "google": it was not a word until the company made it one, and now it's part of our daily language.
32. **Naming Characters:** Brainstorm a list of interesting character names you could potentially use in your creative writing pieces. Briefly describe how each name relates to the character's traits.
33. **Passion Writing:** Got a topic/idea/theme you are really passionate about? Write about it!
34. **Remembrance Listing:** Brainstorm a list of memories from your life. This list can serve as your "bank" of writing ideas for the memoir or autobiography.
35. **"Golden Nugget":** Write about whatever comes into your mind. Then, go back and see if you can find one line that is a "golden nugget" idea. Use that "golden nugget" as the first line of a new piece of writing.
36. **Words of Wisdom:** What words of wisdom do you have to offer? Come up with your own wise sayings.
37. **Letter Writing:** Do you have something you'd like to say to someone you know? Do you have something you'd like to say to someone you don't know? Write this person a letter.

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38. **Favorites:** Make lists of your favorite pieces of art (paintings, sculptures, architecture, fashion design, plays, movies, songs, novels, poems, etc.). Then, go back and look for patterns among what you like. What do you notice about your artistic tastes? Use this knowledge of yourself in future writing projects.
39. **Description Time!** : Have you seen something that struck you as incredibly beautiful, moving, awe-inspiring, or even disturbing? Describe what you saw using vivid detail and imagery to bring it to life.
40. **Eavesdropping:** Listen in on another person's conversation and write it down. Go back and make observations about how we speak in real life to use as inspiration for writing character dialogue.
41. **Cartoon Time!** : Sketch a cartoon about a topic/theme that interests you.
42. **Famous Quotes:** Write down quotations that you like from famous people, movies, songs, literature, etc. Use these quotes as inspiration for new writing ideas.
43. **Free Choice:** Choose any writing task from either the teacher list, student list, or another topic of your own creation and explore it during student-selected writing time.
44. **My Family:** Describe the different personalities in your immediate family. How do their personalities differ from your own?
45. **Irrational Fears:** What is one of your irrational fears (something that you are afraid of that may not make much sense). Do you plan to conquer this fear at some point? If so, how? If not, why?
46. **Travel:** What are some places in the world that you would like to visit? Why are these places interesting to you?
47. **Social Ills:** If you could correct a social ill, (i.e. hunger, poverty, AIDS), what would it be and why?
48. **Strengths:** What is your greatest strength as a person? Describe this strength and how it helps you in your daily life.
49. **Weakness:** What is a personal weakness that you would like to overcome? What are some ways that you could work on this?
50. **Synchronicity:** Synchronicity is described as a series of unlikely events that somehow occur in sequence, leading to an epiphany or an advantageous situation. Have you ever experienced synchronicity? If so, describe the situation. If you have not, can you think of a book or movie where synchronicity happened? Describe that situation.
51. **Language Comparison:** As you learn English, what are some of the ways that you have noticed English differs from Chinese in structure? What are some ways in which English seems easy or difficult? Explain.
52. **A Picture:** In America, there is saying, "A picture is worth 1000 words." Describe a photograph that is meaningful to you. When was it taken? By whom? What was the setting? Why is this photograph important to you?
53. **Animal Transformation:** If you could be any animal for 24 hours, which animal would you be and why?
54. **My Hero:** Describe a person that you look up to. Who is this person? What are the qualities that this person possesses that you admire? How does this person influence your life?
55. **When I Grow Up:** If you could be anything at all when you grew up, what would you do and why? Is this different from the expectation that others have of you? Why or why not?
56. **Secret Personality:** What is a surprising personality characteristic that few people know about you? Why is it that few people in your life know about this?

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57. **Super Power:** If you could have one super-power for one day, what would it be and why? (Flying, X-ray vision, etc).
58. **Rich for a Week:** If you had 1,000,000 yuan and only one week to spend it, what would you do with that money and why?
59. **Travel Companion:** You can travel all over the world but with only one other person. Who would that person be and why? What qualities make this person and good traveling companion?
60. **A Walk in the Woods:** You are walking in the woods. There are two roads in front of you: one is grassy and sunny; the other is shadowy and surrounded by twisted old trees. Which do you take and why? Describe the path as you walk and what is at the end of that road. Use descriptive language.
61. **The Room:** You walk into a room and a door locks behind you. The walls are plain white, and there is a very old man with enormous wings sitting on a stool in one corner. He looks up, but you can tell that he is blind. Describe what happens next.
62. **Genie:** A genie in a bottle can grant you one of three powers: immortality, unlimited money, or happiness as long as you live. Which would you choose and why? What are some of the potential pitfalls you might face with this choice? How might you prevent these possible problems?
63. **Lost in the City:** It's midnight and you are lost in the middle of a foreign city without money or a mobile phone. Describe the setting and what you do next.
64. **Bravery:** Describe a time when you were brave.
65. **Chicken:** Describe a time when you were NOT brave. What would you do different this time? (In America, when you are not brave, they say you are a "chicken.")
66. **Prompts:** Come up with a minimum of FIVE really great prompts to add to this list.