

Use these prompts as starting points for stories of your own. The story can be whatever length you'd like, from a paragraph to a few pages to a short story. It could also be a cartoon strip or a comic book. You might want to collect your stories together into a physical form after you've written a few. Check out our blog post for links to resources on making a zine at home!

Try out one of these writing prompts:

- Tell us a story about the oldest thing in your fridge.
- If you could be a bug, what bug would you be? What would your day look like?
- Write a story that takes place entirely on public transit.
- Tell us a story about your favourite item of clothing. Why is it your favourite?
- You are on holiday...write a postcard to your closest friend.
- Pretend you are interviewing your favourite celebrity. What would you ask them? What advice do they have for you?
- Write about something or someone who changed your life.
- If you could have three wishes, what would they be?
- What is the scariest thing you have ever done?
- Write about something you want to invent to make life better.
- Write about a day in the life of your pet.
- Imagine you are your grandmother or grandfather when they were your age. What is your life like?
- You've been chosen to start a city on a newly discovered planet in outer space. What do you bring with you from Earth?
- Imagine that you are building a spaceship to fly to Alpha Centauri. What would your spaceship look like? What technology and gadgets would you need to survive? And, most importantly, who would you bring with you for company on the long voyage?
- You are a wizard or a witch who lives in a walled off castle surrounded by a deep lake. What sort of pet do you think you would have? You spend a lot of time in the dusty library at the top of your tower, studying spells and practicing the conjuration of strange creatures. One day, you hear a knocking at the front gate – what a shock! No one has approached your home for hundreds of years! Who is waiting there to say hello when you open the door?
- You are the captain of a spaceship that has travelled the galaxy for years. Your crew reports signs of life on a planet in a nearby star system, and you change course to enter the planet's orbit. You go down to the surface to contact this new alien lifeform. Which

members of your crew do you take with you? How do you communicate with the aliens, and what are they like?

- One day, when you're walking in the park, you meet a group of talking animals in need of your help. You're really surprised that they can talk, but there they are: talking animals. What's the situation? Do you end up helping them out?
- Someone recently gave you an ant farm as a present, and you have spent weeks watching the ants as they build their tunnels through the dirt. The ant queen seems to be watching you, but you figure it is all in your imagination. You wake up one day and realize that you are now the size of an ant, while the rest of the world has stayed the same size! What's your first move? Do you enter the ant farm to see if the queen can help, or is that a terrible idea?
- You're a member of the first mission to establish a base on Mars. What kind of job would you like to have? What do you think the trip out there would be like? What would it be like putting together your new home?
- You are a professional deep-sea diver with a lot of experience diving into the ocean to study old shipwrecks. You've just been hired to examine a mysterious wreck somewhere in the world. You sail out there with a team and begin to study the wreck. What do you find? Who built this ship, how old is it, and why did it sink? What happens when you swim down to look around the preserved decks and cabins yourself?
- If you'd like to get a randomly generated prompt, check out Writer Igniter!
<https://diymfa.com/writer-igniter>

Looking for some activities to exercise your writing muscles?

- Look outside your closest window. What do you see? What's happening?
- Make a list of your favourite thing: foods, games, movies, people, places, animals, and more.
- Start a collection of your favourite words and keep adding whenever you hear a new one!
- Make a blackout poem using a discarded book, magazine, or newspaper
(<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/john-depasquale/blackout-poetry/>)
- List five things that make you sad. Now list five things that make you happy!
- Record a story that you remember someone else telling you in the past.
- Think about your favourite book, movie, or story-based video game – now, re-write the ending!

Looking for another format for your writing?

- You could write a branching, Choose-Your-Own-Adventure-style story on paper or using a program like Twine (<https://twinery.org/>).
- You could write the script for a stop-motion movie using modelling clay, toys, or other items – and then, if you have a camera on hand, you could animate your movie and put together a finished product! Try searching for stop-motion tutorials online if you're not sure how to start.
- You could write the script for a play. Perhaps you could cast some friends or family members and have a video-call for the performance!