

Writing Prompts

Fiction and Mystery

- Your main character opens a library book with a mysterious note in it.
- Your main character's mother didn't return home for dinner.
- "I had a strange feeling that I was being followed."
- Your main character gets caught outside in a winter storm. How do they find their way home?
- A group of friends travel somewhere warm for a winter holiday. What goes wrong?
- A comedic story from the perspective of a restaurant server on Valentine's Day.
- A famous chef loses their sense of taste and serves an overly salted meal to eager patrons. What happens next?
- Your main character is on a rooftop in New York City, escaping the crowd of a party. What happens next?
- Write a story that begins with the ending. For example, perhaps your story is about a girl who gets lost at sea and then captured by pirates—only to become a pirate herself. Begin the story with the girl as a pirate, and then show the readers how she got there.
- Your main character and their significant other are at home watching a scary movie when the power goes out.
- A group of friends escapes to a private island for an end-of-year holiday. But when they arrive, the hotel is deserted, and the boat has already left the dock.
- Your main character is a flight attendant working the holiday season. Write about a strange encounter they have on the plane.

Science Fiction and Fantasy

- Your main character's best friend sends you a text that says, "The wolves are here."
- Think about a favorite story or fairytale from your childhood. Rewrite it with an alternative ending.
- Imagine a world in which the days are getting progressively shorter. How will your characters stop this countdown and save humanity before it's too late?
- Your main character just came home from a trip to find their house has disappeared and been replaced with a supermarket. It's like it was never even there.
- Your main character wakes up with a superpower. What is it? What do they do with it? Do they become a hero or a villain?
- Two friends take out a boat on the lake and discover the water has magic powers. Write a fantasy story about their adventure.
- A "monster" turns out to be a "hero," or vice versa.
- Your main characters are at a college football game when, suddenly, the sky goes black. What happens next?