



## Theme: Coming of Age

- *Chapter Book*: Write a story about a character learning what it means to grow up.
- *Microfiction*: Find an image of a culturally-specific coming-of-age experience or ritual (e.g., a quinceañera, Bat Mitzvah, Seijin-no-He, etc.). Write a story or series of stories about what is happening in that image (or in multiple images of different coming-of-age experiences).

## Theme: Diverse Experiences

- *Chapter Book*: Write about people from different parts of the world who meet due to a shared circumstance and to solve a common problem. Your chapters can alternate perspectives.
- *Microfiction*: Find an image with more than one person/animal. Write an argument that gets resolved between those two people.

## Theme: Historical Figures

- *Chapter Book*: Write a historical fiction story about a painting that suddenly comes to life.
- *Microfiction*: Write a short biography about a historical figure.

## Theme: Exploring Relationships

- *Chapter Book*: Write about friends who, through a shared experience, start to feel like family.
- *Microfiction*: Write a story that begins and ends with a dinner party or gathering of people (inspired by a photograph). Make sure that, during the middle, only some are together.

## Theme: High Stakes

- *Chapter Book*: Write about character(s) who discover that they have supernatural powers OR a special power (this can be something within them). What do they choose to do with that power? What problem are they trying to solve?
- *Microfiction*: Find an image of an object. Then, write a story about someone who goes to extreme lengths to return that object to its original owner.



# WRITING IDEAS & PROMPTS

## TIPS AND INSPIRATION

*Know your character.*

Your audience does not necessarily need to know every aspect of your character, but knowing them yourself will help you add texture and dimension to your writing. It can also help to identify character wants and what obstacles stand in the way of those wants, thereby defining the conflict of your story. Consider the following.

*Who is my character?*

- **Traits:** This is your character's unique mixture of positive, negative, and neutral traits, habits, likes, dislikes, talents, hobbies, quirks, and mannerisms.
- **Values:** Your character's individual point of view, beliefs, attitudes, values, and passions.
- **Flaws:** Your character's negative traits, fears, resentments, emotional issues, etc. (These are important not only because they are distinctly human, but because they provide a basis for readers to sympathize/empathize with your character, which builds understanding and relatability.)

## WRITING EXERCISES

- Create a list of words that only have short vowel sounds and closed syllables. Then, write the introduction to a story using as many of those words as possible.
- Choose one of the writing ideas/prompts from the last page. Create a list of words that have to do with the subject of one of those prompts. From there, try to find 10-15 decodable synonyms for those words based on the scope and sequence you're using. Then, try writing a story that uses all of those words on your list.
- Write one 200-word decodable chapter from one character's point of view. Then, continue the story from another character's point of view. The two points of view don't have to intersect until the third chapter... or even the fourth chapter, if you include another character's point of view.
- Write a script full of decodable dialogue. Add the description in later!