

Writing Prompts Activities

1. Cube Poem

Prompt:

- Write a Cube Poem following the 3x3x3 rule. 3 Words, 3 Lines, 3 Stanzas

Constraints:

- Poem must use only words that are **both** a noun and a verb
- Poem form
- Complete in 15 mins.

Intended Outcomes:

- Select and use appropriate features, forms, and genres according to audience, purpose and message

Clues

Creeps play drinks

Pets mouth shoulders

Frank bombs bears

Fry sinks bounce

Ghost nuts ring

fish cups row

Strings cross ducks

Books break parts

Stumps, cramps, bumps

2. Spam Poem

Prompt:

- Create a new poem with a new narrative by crossing out words, letters and/or punctuation from Spam

Constraints:

- Spam will be provided for you
- Create a unique poem by crossing out words to create a new narrative
- Must use words in sequential order of original spam
- Show your crossed out words words in the original text
- 30 minutes to complete
- Present to class

Intended Outcomes:

- Select an use appropriate features, forms, genres according to audience, purpose and message
- Transform ideas and information to create original texts

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Mad Ash King floats
and I slide on.
Do Not Stop.
Enter.

No fortune will influence
Time's limits on man.
A Monarch too powerful to defy
Death renders all to it's shallow, dark, retreat.
Impossible to combat.
Equal in it's selection

Bitter truth, existence.
Severe and brief.
Encroaching unquestionably as I resist.

3. Elevating Text

Prompt: Choose a piece of text written in colloquial or “everyday” language. Use sophisticated language to elevate the register of the text.

Constraints:

- Use an original text (a letter, email, text)
- Using sophisticated, complex language, elevate the text to sound formal
- You have 20 minutes to complete

Intended Outcomes

- Recognize how language constructs personal, social and cultural identity
- Respond to text in personal, creative and critical ways.



Musings From Daughter Regarding The Problematic Behaviour of The Infantile Canine Lupus Familiaris - (text format)

Mother,

I am not capable of engaging in this activity. The infantile Canine lupus familiaris, who is identified as Oscar, is in the process of consuming and annihilating all that surrounds this domain. Your younger daughter, referred to commonly as Georgia, is currently in the introductory stages of increasing levels of hysteria. In addition to the chaos that has ensued, I have begun an emotional display of weeping lament.

4. Mix and Match Story Starter

Prompt:

- Write a short story using one prompt from each category of the story starter. Use dialogue and narration to reveal your scenario.

Constraints:

- Choose one prompt from each category (Characters, Places, Situation) and write a short story using these prompts.
- Use both dialogue and narration to reveal your scenario
- 30 minutes to complete
- Read aloud to class without revealing your 3 prompts. Allow classmates to guess.

Intended Outcomes:

- Transform ideas and information to create original texts
- assess and refine texts to improve their clarity, effectiveness and impact according to purpose, audience and message

Characters:

- mother and son
- doctor and patient
- teacher and student
- teacher and parent
- santa claus and the easter bunny
- two best friends
- police officer and criminal
- two strangers
- husband and wife
- two siblings
- movie star and fan
- two neighbours
- two enemies
- grandfather and grandson
- psychic and customer

Places:

- coffee shop
- school
- hospital
- funeral
- carnival

- airplane
- ice rink
- mall
- bank
- zoo
- wedding
- bus/public transportation
- night club
- movie theatre
- library
- Problems/concerns/issues/discussion
- Broken Toe
- stolen candy
- bad haircut
- failed test
- keeping a secret
- afraid of flying
- fear closed spaces (claustrophobic)
- bad nightmare
- ghost
- lost/stolen wallet
- fire
- there's a new kid in class
- cracked phone screen
- earthquake
- bee sting

Officer/Criminal, Bank, Fear of Flying (mix and match dialogue activity)

This was the last time she would ever have to do this. It was a perfect plan. A sure thing, they said. She was worried though. She had warned them that even though it might be the perfect plan, it was the worst idea ever.

“Stop, and raise your hands in the air!” bellowed the officer.

“Don’t chicken out now,” murmured the young woman to herself.

“Hands in the air. NOW!” shouted the officer, even more forcefully than before.

At that moment, the whirl of the choppers’ blades slicing through the frosty air could be heard clearly in the small stuffy bank.

“Try to catch me!” she mocked with more confidence than she actually felt.

She ran the length of the bank, through the sliding doors and towards the waiting helicopter.

“I can do this! I can do this!” she repeated like a mantra.

The sight of the helicopter stopped her dead in her tracks.

“Oh no. No, no, no. Nope. I can’t do it,” she cried, “I just can’t!”

The officer, bewildered by her sudden stop, raced up behind her and pulled out his handcuffs.

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.”

Defiantly she pulled against the handcuffs and whispered angrily, “You didn’t catch me, I gave myself up.”

“Whatever you say, lady. But why did you stop so suddenly? You had a clean getaway?” prodded the officer.

“I’m afraid of flying,” she said simply.

5. Re-Writing Fairytale using Dialogue Tags

Prompt:

- In partners, write out a dialogue between two characters in a fairy tale. Choose one of the fairytale summaries provided for you. The dialogue must take the reader from the beginning all the way to the end of the story.

- **Constraints:**

There **MUST** be at least 10 exchanges of dialogue between at least 2 people (minimum 20 lines)

You can only use the dialogue tag he/she said one time in the dialogue exchange.

You must show variation of where the dialogue tags are located within a sentence (at the beginning, middle and end).

You can use a small amount of narration to help move the story along

15 minutes to complete

Intended Outcomes:

- Use an increasing repertoire of conventions of Canadian spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Transform ideas and information to create original texts

Fairy Tale Summaries

The Three Little Pigs

In this fairy tale, three little pigs live in houses made out of 3 different kinds of material; straw, twigs and bricks. A big bad wolf comes to each of the pigs homes and threatens to blow down the house unless the pigs answer the door. The pigs refuse to open so he blows down the first straw house, then he blows down the second twig house, and finally he tries to blow down the third house but is unsuccessful because it is made of bricks.

Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Riding Hood's mother asks her to take some freshly baked food to her Granny who is sick with a cold. Along the way Little Red Riding Hood meets a sly wolf. She tells him where she's going and the wolf runs up ahead of her to Granny's house. Wolf eats Granny and then waits for Little Red Riding Hood to arrive. When he sees her he is dressed in Granny's clothing as he is trying to trick her into coming closer to him so he can eat her too. Little Red Riding Hood is smart and recognizes the trick and is able to escape.

Hansel and Gretel

This is a fairy tale about two children, a brother and a sister who overhear a plan that they are to be taken into the forest by their stepmother to be abandoned. They leave a trail of crumbs to find their way home, but the birds eat the crumbs and they are lost. They eventually discover a house made of candy deep in the woods. Inside the house lives a witch who catches children and gives them candy to fatten them up and eat them. Hansel and Gretel are caught, but eventually outsmart the witch. The witch prepares the oven to cook Hansel and she decides to cook Gretel first. Gretel sees what is happening and pretends not to understand what the witch wants her to do. The witch bends into the oven showing Gretel what she is asking and Gretel kicks her into the oven, unlocks Hansel from his cage and the kids travel back home happy to see their father.

Mr. Wolf's Little Problem (using dialogue in fairytales)

"Hey, Little Pig, I know you're in there!" shouted Mr. Wolf.

"No I'm not," replied Little Pig, rather sarcastically.

Mr. Wolf was not having it. "Hey Pig, I need some advice!" he pleaded, "please come out!"

Just then, Mr. Wolf felt a little tickle in his nostril. He huffed and he puffed and he sneezed that little tickle right out of his nose.

"AAAAACHOOOOOOO!" he bellowed.

And with that, Little Pig's house crumpled in a pile of straw and sand.

"Oops," admitted Mr. Wolf, a little embarrassed.

Little Pig was nowhere to be found.

Mr. Wolf then walk down the street to the next pig's house.

"Hey Piglet, I need to ask you something. Come out!" he shouted once more.

"Can't hear you!" mocked Piglet.

"Yes you can," Mr. Wolf responded irritated, "you just heard me ask you to come out!"

"No I didn't," replied Piglet.

"How annoying," murmured Mr. Wolf to himself.

Just then, Mr. Wolf felt a little snuffle in his nostril. He huffed and he puffed and he sneezed that little snuffle right out of his nose.

"AHHHHCHOOOOO!!! he sneezed. "Ah, that felt good," he announced to nobody in particular.

He looked down and saw the house of twigs in a pile on the ground.

"Oops," Mr. Wolfe whispered to himself, "not again."

Piglet was nowhere to be found

Reluctantly, Mr. Wolf went to Boss Hog's house.

"Hey, Boss Hog! Open up. I've got a question you might be able to help me with!" shouted Mr. Wolf, with a little less confidence than before.

"Whaddya want, Wolf?" bit back Boss Hog.

"I've got a cold," cried Mr. Wolf, "and I don't know what to take for it."

"Ahhhh! How's about some tea with ginger and lemon and honey, followed by a little bit of pink medicine and a good night's sleep." said Boss Hog thoughtfully.

"Great idea!" shouted Mr. Wolf. "Wow," he said, "that was really good advice, Boss. I knew I could on you pigs."

Just as Mr. Wolf was turning to leave, he felt a little flutter in his nostril. He huffed and he puffed and... and... and... "AHHHHHCHOOOOOOO!"

Mr. Wolfe sneezed that flutter right out of his nose. He also blew the roof off of Boss Hog's big brick house.

"My bad," said Mr. Wolf with a sly grin.

6. Sharp C-Flat (adjective sequencing)

Prompt:

- Using any CFlat elements, create a text (narrative, story, poem) using one or as many elements as possible. Identify which elements you have chosen.

Constraints:

- Choose any elements using CFlat
- Time 30 mins
- Read aloud in a group. Have your group identify which elements you have chosen

Intended Outcomes

- Explain how literary elements, techniques and devices enhance and shape meaning
- Use an increasing repertoire of conventions of Canadian spelling, grammar and punctuation

The puppy.

The brown puppy.

The adorable brown puppy.

The adorably enthusiastic brown puppy.

The adorable overly enthusiastic brown puppy.

The adorable, lovable, overly enthusiastic brown puppy.

The adorable, lovable, yet overly enthusiastic chocolate brown puppy

The heart-melting adorable, lovable, yet overly enthusiastic dark chocolate brown puppy.

The heart-melting, undeniably adorable, lovable, yet overly enthusiastic, dark chocolate brown puppy.

The heart-melting, adorable, lovable, yet entirely too overly enthusiastic, rich dark chocolate brown puppy.

The most heart-melting, adorable, lovable, yet entirely too overly enthusiastic, rich dark chocolate brown puppy... bit me.

7. Alliteration Alley

Prompt:

- Write an alphabet poem using alliteration.

Constraints:

- Use each letter of the alphabet one time
- Must be in the form of a poem
- 20 minutes

Intended Outcomes:

- Select and use appropriate features, forms and genres according to audience, purpose and message
- explain how literary elements, techniques and devices enhance and shape meaning

Alisa always answers arithmetic
Ben becomes barbarically bemused

Carole casts caustic conversations carelessly
Derek's drawl defines his demeanour

Ellen experiences exotic elegance
Frank feigns fits of forgetfulness

Graham glowers guiltlessly at
Hannah, who has harassed him heartlessly

Ivan is inevitably incredible
Johnson just jives

Kathy kills
Lisa,

Madeline makes money moaning,
Nadia knows nothing neither.

Oscar oscillates over
Prissy Priscilla. puh-lease.

Queen Queen Queen - quite quietly quickly quips

To Travis, totally tranced.

Ulani, understandably unaware of
Victors vial vitriolic verbiage

Wendy, while whizzing waywardly,
Xander exercises xylophonic xenophobia

Yet, Yana yells yonder at
Zalia, zee zebra.

8. Five Sense Nonsense

Prompt:

- A series of mini poems (any format) each one using words to describe one of the 5 senses

Constraints:

- Write 5 mini poems
- Each poem must emphasize one of the 5 senses
- 60 mins
- Read aloud

Intended Outcomes:

- Transform ideas and information to create original texts
- Explain how literary elements, techniques and devices enhance and shape meaning

Him.

The tinkling and clinking pierces
The buzzing chatter.
Muffled and indistinguishable
Yet recognizably baritone.
Thunderous and deep,
Although uniquely scratchy and raspy
I hear him.
Laughing.

Slurpee

Icy coldness, bubbling and fizzing
Popping and quenching and satisfying
Mouth puckering tartness, teasing my tastebuds
Turns syrupy sweet,
Generously relieving my mouth,
As my brain freezes

Beach Days

The deepest emerald green,
The darkest shade of blue
White caps and crests
Exploding on cue.

Tangerine coral
Yellowish fish
Plum coloured squid
And a purple starfish

Beige and brown sand
pebbles of grey
absorb all the sunshine
reflected back through the wave.

Their Stink.

She spritzes the floral bouquet of abundance
He stands alone, surrounded by his own fetidness.
They giggle, the putrid pungency wafts from their direction
She sighs, a whisper of mint and smoke curling from her breath
He smirks, his muskiness invading her senses.

Scorched

Burning cold numbs the scream
Of piercing pain
I know I will feel
Once my delicate flesh
Recognizes the wild sear
of
his
stare.

9. Shakespeare Shuffle

Prompt:

- Choose a quote from any of Shakespeare's work and explain in colloquial terms what he means.

Constraints:

- Quote must be from Shakespeare text
- re-phrase quote using colloquial language (register shift down)
- 10 mins
- read aloud to class

Intended Outcomes:

- Recognize how language constructs personal, social and cultural identity
- respond to text in personal, creative and critical ways

“But look the morn, in russet mantle clad,
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastard hill”

Sun's coming up.

10. Limerick Junction

Prompt:

- Write a limerick about a short story, poem or novel you have read.

Constraints:

- Poem must be in format of limerick
- Poem must summarize a story, poem or novel
- 15 mins

Intended Outcomes:

- Think critically, creatively and reflectively to explore ideas within, between and beyond texts
- Transform ideas and information to create original texts
- Explain how literary elements, techniques and devices enhance and shape meaning

The Winning Ticket

There was was a town in a story
Where a winner was named in The Lottery
Let's just say
It didn't go Tessie's way
And the townsfolk resumed with their battery.

The Fake-Out Games

There once was a girl named Katniss
Who thought she would win giving Peeta a kiss
She played the game well
The crowd got caught up in her spell
District 12 enjoyed a short time of bliss.