

**A “Collection” of Sample Writing Prompts for Using, Responding to, or  
Analyzing Texts  
Compiled or Developed by Karin Hess (2010-2011)**

**Grades K-2 Examples**

**#1**

 We read a book about \_\_\_\_\_.

This is what I learned.

**#2**

My Report about \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

These are my questions about \_\_\_\_\_.

I will read a book to find the answers. Then I will write about what I learned.

Things I learned about \_\_\_\_\_ . (frog eggs)

Things I learned about \_\_\_\_\_ . (tadpoles)

Things I learned about \_\_\_\_\_ . (frogs)

This is the most interesting thing I learned or something that I want to know more about.

**#3 (two examples for writing narrative texts)**

**Something I Did this Week/Today**



There are many different and interesting activities that we do. Draw and write a story about an interesting activity that you did at school or with your friends this week.

## A Pet that Got Into Trouble



Having a pet can be fun, but sometimes they can get into trouble! Draw and write a story about a real or imaginary pet that did something it was not supposed to do. Be sure to tell what problems that caused and how the problem turned out.

### Grades 3-5 Examples

#### #4 (compare-contrast)

**Frogs and Toads:**  
**Are they the same or are they different?**



Animals can be the same and different in many ways - including frogs and toads!

Read the Frog and Toad fact sheet and think about how frogs and toads are the same and how they are different. Now you will write and illustrate a report comparing the two animals. Tell what is the same about both animals and what is different about both animals. Be sure to use facts about both frogs and toads to explain whether frogs and toads are mostly the same or mostly different.

#### #5 (compare and then state opinion)

### Investigating Sharks




Scientists like to study animals in their natural habitat. That means that a shark scientist has to study sharks in the oceans where they live. Shark scientists are scuba divers who go deep into the ocean to learn more about sharks.

Read and discuss "Facts about Sharks" by Susanna Batchelor. Think about how these two types of sharks are the same and also how they are different. Which shark would you study if you were a shark scientist and why?

1. Decide which shark you would want to study.
2. Find the best shark facts to support your reasons.
3. Explain your reasons. Be sure to use facts about hammerhead sharks and whale sharks to explain why you would study the shark you chose and not the other shark.

## #6 (opinion on literary text/character study)

### Response to Literary Texts - Character Study in Self-Selected Text

 Every story character, even animal characters, have personality traits that we learn about by what they say, think, want, and do, and by how other characters interact with them during the story. Stories have themes that teach lessons using the characters and events in the story.

Select a text that you read earlier this year using a list provided by your teacher. Skim the story again and make some notes about the different characters in the story.

Then select the character you think:


(a) learned the most during the story OR

(b) taught others an important lesson.

Write a response that states your opinion (a or b as your focus). Support your focus by explaining how the character's traits, actions, and interactions with events and other characters during the story support your reasoning/opinion and focus. You can use a graphic organizer to help you plan your response.


## #7 (opinion on informational text/author's craft)

### Response to Informational Texts - How Author's Interest and Help Readers Understand the Topic

 Authors choose their words carefully and use other features to help readers visualize, understand, and find the information interesting. You will be examining the ways an author presents information in this article about \_\_\_\_\_.  
Read the article, "\_\_\_\_\_." Then write a response that tells several different ways - or techniques - the author uses to interest readers in the topic and help readers understand the information. Use specific examples from the text to explain how these techniques support your focus. You can use the graphic organizer to help you plan your response.

## Grade 3 and above #8 (literary analysis)

### Literary Essay

 People (characters) make decisions that can affect someone else in dramatic or subtle ways. From the works read this semester, choose two. Choose a character from each story and describe how a decision made by one character (text #1) parallels the effect of a decision made by the character in the second work. Use specific examples from the texts to support your thesis.

## Text Based

### Sample Prompts for Responding (Orally & in Writing) to Narrative Texts

Adapted from Hammond & Nessel (2011, p. 113)

<b>Sample Frames for Prompts for Responding to Narrative Texts</b>	
<b>Interpretive</b>	Why do you think _____ worried when _____? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Thematic</b>	What is this (story/character/event) really trying to teach us? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Visual/ Imaginative</b>	Which scene did you find especially vivid? Use the evidence from the text to describe what you imagined.
<b>Author's Craft</b>	What are some interesting words or techniques used by the author to _____ (e.g., describe characters, setting, comparisons; create suspense)? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Metacognitive</b>	Did your opinion/awareness of _____ change from the beginning to the end of the story? How? Why? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Moral/Ethical</b>	Was it right for _____ to _____? Why or why not? OR Who is the real hero/villain in this story? Why or why not? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Inter-textual (text to text)</b>	Does this story remind you of another story? In what ways are they alike/different? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Analogical (text to self or text to world)</b>	Can you describe /recall a similar situation in which the result/effect was different? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.
<b>Elaborative</b>	This character _____ described herself as _____. After reading the story, how else would describe her? Use the evidence from the text to support your response.