50 Fifth Grade Writing Prompts

Fifth-grade writers can explore more complex narratives, explanations, and arguments. Encourage planning, relevant details, credible sources when research is needed, and revision that improves organization—not just proofreading.

How to use them: offer two or three and let the writer choose, or change one. Talk first, then plan, draft and share. A writer can always pick another prompt, answer with a made-up story, or pass.

1. Can you tell the difference between a privilege and a right? What is it?
2. Who is the most reliable person you trust the most in your life?
3. Should video games be created by kids or by adults? Why?
4. Do you like technology devices? Why or why not?
5. Write about the most exciting thing you've ever done.
6. Which language would you like to learn, and how might you use it?
7. What qualities should a community leader have? Support your answer with examples.
8. What helps you focus when a task is difficult or takes a long time?
9. Do you like or dislike the fact that some cartoon characters don't wear pants? Why or why not?
10. Write about a moment when you did not succeed to keep a promise. What did you do to make up for it?
11. Write a how-to-guide on how to make friends in 5th grade. Share your experiences in finding the best way.
12. How often do you remember your dreams? Are they important to you?
13. When was the last phone call you made? Tell us about it.
14. What is so unique about your family? Do you find it exciting or boring?
15. If you were an emotion, which one would you want to be and why?
16. Do you remember a quote from a book or famous person? What was it? How does it influence you?
17. Can you remember the first moment you ever felt sadness?
18. Share a movie or a TV show that you found scary when you were younger? Do you still feel terrified about it? Why?
19. What are the things you would do if you had only one week to live? Why?
20. If you could go back or move ahead to any grade in school, which grade would you like to be in?
21. Do you feel it is important to give back to your community? Why or why not?
22. Can you write some rap lyrics to describe any of the countries on Earth?
23. Do you know, who made the first map? How did they make it?
24. If you got a chance to live on a planet other than Earth, which one would it be?
25. What would you like to see if you get the chance to go back in time?
26. What do you know about where energy comes from?
27. What is the coolest fact you know? Have you shared it with others? Where did you learn it?
28. What would you choose, an extra hour of playtime or an extra hour of sleep in the morning? Why?
29. Which is the most useless part of the human body? Why do you feel that way?

30. How do you manage when you need to spend time with someone you don’t like?
31. Do you feel people can ever live on another planet in the Milky Way galaxy?
32. What does responsibility feel like? What does it mean to you?
33. Would you choose an extra arm or an extra leg? Why?
34. Who is the first friend of your life? How did you make friends with him/her?
35. Make your own particular song into the national anthem for a country of your dream.
36. Do you remember the moment when you did something because everyone else around you was doing it? How did you feel about it now?
37. Would you want to become a zombie or a robot?
38. What would you name it if you get a chance to rename your country? Why?
39. Which is the one place you feel the most at home? How did you come to know the place?
40. If your school had a Magic School Bus that could take you anywhere, where would you want to go on a trip?
41. Write a gossip conversation between your socks and your shoes.
42. What would you wear, the clothes chosen by your teacher or the ones picked up by your mom? Why?
43. What is your strangest habit? How did you develop it?
44. If you get a chance to invite a celebrity to your house, who would it be? Why?
45. Pick your favourite emoji and write a backstory about its life.
46. What are the qualities in you that make you a good neighbour?
47. Write the most loving memory of your favourite holiday destination.
48. How can you connect with your ancestors?
49. Write a story about an explorer who discovers an uncharted island in an imaginary world.
50. Find a friend and interview one another to know about each other’s childhoods. Then write a short story about growing up in your friend’s house.

When a prompt becomes a story

Plan it: growmindgrow.com/tools/story-starter builds a beginning, middle and end you can print.

Revise it: growmindgrow.com/blog/articles/revising-writing-examples-for-kids shows a draft becoming a revision, with a free revision card.