15 Wonderful Writing Prompt Mini-Books

Reproducible Mini-Books With Instant Prompts and Story Frames That Invite Kids to Write About Themselves and Create Fun Stories

by Betsy Franco

New York • Toronto • London • Auckland • Sydney
Mexico City • New Delhi • Hong Kong • Buenos Aires

15 Wonderful Writing Prompt Mini-Books © Scholastic Teaching Resources
For the children of El Carmelo School, who give me "writing prompts" every morning just by being themselves.
Contents

Introduction .......................... 4
Using the Mini-Books in Your Classroom ... 5
How to Assemble the Mini-Books ............ 5
Creating the Mini-Books .................. 6

The Mini-Books

My Book About Feelings ........... 9
All About Me ...................... 13
The Friendly Monster ........... 17
I’m Thankful! ...................... 21
My Favorite Things ............... 25
Animal Tales ..................... 29
Silly Stories ...................... 33
School Days ....................... 37
The 100th Day of School ........... 41
The Lonely Giant ................. 45
My Words of Wisdom ............. 49
Happy Valentine’s Day! ........... 53
My Buggy Book ................. 57
My Dream World ............... 59
My Very Own Folk and Fairy Tales 61


Introduction

Writing will flow freely from children with 15 Wonderful Writing Prompt Mini-Books! These make-your-own books are fun, engaging, relevant, and carefully crafted for young writers. As children complete each of the 15 books in the set, they will be engaged in writing, reading, oral literacy, and art. Children will create little books that are so personal and charming, they will surely become family keepsakes for years to come! Children will have a variety of writing experiences:

🌟 Some of the mini-books encourage children to write about their feelings, their families and friends, their favorite things, and their school.

🌟 Some awaken children’s imaginations as they write silly stories and tall tales about such things as babysitting for a gorilla! In Animal Tales, they describe what it might be like to swim like a fish or fly like an eagle.

🌟 Holidays come into play in the books Happy Valentine’s Day! and I’m Thankful!

🌟 Children are also given a chance to write their own fairy tales and to write letters to favorite fairy tale characters. For example, they’ll give a few helpful suggestions to Goldilocks and the Big Bad Wolf!
Using the Mini-Books in Your Classroom

Depending on ability and developmental level, children will respond to the prompts in different ways. Some will answer in one word or sentence, while others will take the prompt and “run with it.” These simple steps will help you and your class get the most from each book:

1. Explain to children that they will be writing their very own books and show an assembled book to the class. Discuss how several authors can write about the same topic and come up with a completely different book — this is what keeps libraries and bookstores full! Emphasize that each child is an author with his or her very own stories to tell.

2. For every book, photocopy the pages for each child and model the assembly of the books as children follow your lead (see right).

3. Discuss the title and the topic of each book.

4. On pages 6–8, you’ll find specific suggestions for getting started. These introductory brainstorming and discussion sessions will clarify the task and inspire children to write.

5. Go through each book page by page so children understand what information and illustrations they will be contributing.

6. Give children time to complete and color their books. Explain that this is an opportunity to tell about themselves or to use their limitless imaginations! Encourage them to write as much as they can.

7. Sharing the books is an important final step. Children will strengthen their oral literacy, and the experience will validate their writing attempts as others listen to their feelings, opinions, and ideas. Children can share with the whole class, in small groups, with a partner, or with an older buddy. Finally, taking the books home helps families become involved with the growing literacy of their children.

How to Assemble the Mini-Books

The books have been designed for ease of assembly. It is best to assemble the books together as a class—you might assemble and complete one yourself to use as a model when introducing the book.

1. Copy the pages for books on standard 8 1/2- by 11-inch paper, making the pages double-sided.

2. Fold each page in half along the dashed lines.

3. Place the pages in number order and staple along the spine.

For the smaller mini-books (see pages 57–60)

1. Copy the page onto standard 8 1/2- by 11-inch paper, making the pages double-sided.

2. Cut each sheet into four small pages and arrange in number order. Staple.

If desired, children can create additional protective covers with construction paper.
My Book About Feelings
Children label and elaborate upon different feelings.

**Introduce the Book:** Have children name as many feeling words as they can. Record their contributions on chart paper. You might discuss how children are feeling that day or help them recall situations that have made them happy, sad, mad, or scared.

**Make the Book:** Help children assemble the book and invite them to write about situations that cause them to feel certain ways, then color each page.

All About Me
Children experience the genre of autobiography.

**Introduce the Book:** Show children the cover and explain that this type of book is called an autobiography.

**Make the Book:** Let children illustrate and complete each page. Point out illustrations when they appear, and encourage children to use them spark ideas.

The Friendly Monster
Children narrate a full-length piece of fiction.

**Introduce the Book:** Discuss with children what it might be like to have a pet monster! What might they name their monster?

**Make the Book:** Children complete each sentence with their ideas about what the monster might do in the various settings, and then color in and add to the illustrations.

I'm Thankful!
Patterned, predictable text helps children reflect on Thanksgiving.

**Introduce the Book:** Discuss the meaning of the word “thankful” and have children list things for which they are thankful. Record responses on chart paper.

**Make the Book:** Children can color and complete each page. This little book makes a perfect Thanksgiving gift for families!

My Favorite Things
Children extend the autobiography experience.

**Introduce the Book:** Talk about the concept of “favorites.” Ask each child to name a favorite ice cream flavor, favorite color, and so on.

**Make the Book:** Children complete and illustrate or color each page.
**Animal Tales**
Children take flights of fancy in an imaginative mini-book.

**Introduce the Book:** Ask children which animal they would be if they could be any animal, and have them explain why.

**Make the Book:** Children complete sentences and color each page. Explain that the sky’s the limit and that they can write anything they imagine!

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**Silly Stories**
Open-ended fictional prompts springboard children into the worlds of fantasy and tall tales.

**Introduce the Book:** Brainstorm with the writing prompt on the first page about a child who looks at him or herself in the mirror and exclaims, “Oh, no!” Let the class imagine what provoked the exclamation.

**Make the Book:** Point out the dedication page and explain what a dedication is. On each page, children use the picture and sentence starters as writing prompts.

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**School Days**
Perfect for open houses, this mini-book invites children to describe and illustrate their school experience.

**Introduce the Book:** Ask children what they like to learn, what their favorite places in school are, and so on.

**Make the Book:** Children complete the sentences and color or illustrate each page. You might point out page 7, on which they describe a funny thing that happened at school (remind them that this should be something that was funny for everyone, not something embarrassing to one child!)

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**The 100th Day of School**
Children enrich their “100th Day of School” experience with this creative mini-book!

**Introduce the Book:** Use this book on the 100th day of school. Start by asking questions such as: What food would you like to eat 100 of?

**Make the Book:** Children color and complete each page. Encourage them to explain their reasons for their choices.

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**The Lonely Giant**
Children narrate a full short story from beginning to end.

**Introduce the Book:** Discuss situations in which children feel lonely. Have them speculate as to why a giant might be lonely (for instance, he doesn’t physically fit anywhere, everyone is afraid of him, and so on).

**Make the Book:** Children color in the illustrations on each page and use the writing prompts to complete the story. Point out that the last page is “About the Author,” and help them decide what information to include about themselves.
**My Words of Wisdom**

Children take an imaginative trip into both the fairy tale and the letter-writing genres.

**Introduce the Book:** Quickly review the story of Cinderella or Rapunzel and together, write a collaborative letter with suggestions to either character. For instance, children might suggest to Rapunzel that she start doing exercises so that she can escape by climbing down the outside of the tower.

**Make the Book:** Children can compose their own letter on each page and color the illustrations. On the last page of this book, children can correspond with any character from a favorite story.

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**Happy Valentine’s Day!**

Infuse this holiday with literacy by creating colorful, descriptive valentine books.

**Introduce the Book:** Discuss the meaning and history of Valentine’s Day. You might also share different Valentine’s Day cards with the group.

**Make the Book:** Go through the book with the group, pointing out what the children might write and draw on each page. *Happy Valentine’s Day!* will make a lovely gift for families!

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**My Buggy Book**

Children explore a popular, colorful science topic in a non-fiction mini-book.

**Introduce the Book:** Have each child contribute one word that comes to mind when they think of bugs.

**Make the Book:** Children illustrate and complete each page. Point out the last page, on which they will make up an imaginary bug and describe it.

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**My Dream World**

Children describe a world of limitless possibilities.

**Introduce the Book:** Talk about the concept of a “dream world.” Explain to children that dreams do not only happen when we’re asleep, but the word can mean “something we really want to do or have.”

**Make the Book:** Children complete and illustrate each page. Help them brainstorm ideas for page 8, on which they make up their own “dream” idea.

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**My Very Own Folk and Fairy Tales**

Children put their own spin on myths, legends, and folk and fairy tales with rich and inviting writing prompts.

**Introduce the Book:** Explain that some stories, such as the one they will write on page 4 and 6, are called “pourquoi tales,” or stories that explain why things are a certain way.

**Make the Book:** So that children get the idea of the mini-book, brainstorm ideas for the first fairy tale. Children can then begin writing their own fairy tales and coloring the illustrations.
Here's what makes me scared:
Here's what makes me happy:

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Here's what makes me sad:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
And here’s the very best feeling that I’ve ever had:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Here’s what makes me laugh (it really makes me glad!):

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

6

7
Here's what makes me mad:

___________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Now I've told my feelings
from mad to sad to glad.
And here is one last feeling
that I would like to add:
I feel ____________________when _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Here's what makes me mad:
I like to

___________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

All About Me

by

_______________________________
My full name is ____________________________.

I like to be called ____________________________.

Here is a picture of me.

This is what I look like: ____________________________________________

My Autograph
I have some ideas about what I’d like to be when I grow up:

If my friend described me, he or she might say that I was
These are the people in my family. Let me tell you about them:

____________________________________

If I could change one thing about the world, I would change______________

The one thing I would never change is_______________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________
Monster was afraid of the daylight.

I took its hand and I told it...
One day, I looked under my bed. There was a monster under there, and it was smiling at me! The monster said, “_________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________.”

Monster and I made friends and had lots of fun in my room. We ______________________________________________________________________________________________

‘Smiling at me! The monster said, ‘There was a monster under there, and it was.’ One day, I looked under my bed...’
When we were at recess, all the kids started laughing because Monster came to school with me. As soon as it walked into the classroom,
The first person Monster met was ___________________________________, who said, "__________________________ ___________________________________________________________."

In the classroom, the teacher was surprised to see Monster _________________________________. But my teacher let Monster stay all day!

But my teacher let Monster stay all day!
At mealtime, I'm thankful for
On Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for _____________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

I'm thankful for my family because ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________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Outside, when I look at nature,
I'm thankful for

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

I'm thankful I have

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
At school, I'm thankful for ____________________________________________

I almost forgot! I'm also thankful for ____________________________________________
And here's a book I really, really liked to read:
This little book is all about me. It's all about my favorite things and what I like to do. Here I am in my favorite place. My favorite place is:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Here's a favorite food I really like to eat:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
When I get dressed for school, here's my favorite thing to wear:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

And here's my favorite pet if I could have most any sort:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Let me tell you about my favorite game or my favorite sport.

And here’s the place I’d visit if I could go anywhere!
If I were as tiny as an ant, I would
If I could swim like a fish, I would __________________________________________________________________________

If I had wings like an eagle, I would __________________________________________________________________________
If I were as fast as a rabbit, I would ____________________________.

If I were as big as an elephant, I would ____________________________.
If I could climb like a monkey, I would

My favorite animal is the __________.
If I could be like my favorite animal, I would ________________________________
On Tuesday, I had to babysit a gorilla.

What a day!
On Monday, I woke up and looked in the mirror. "Oh, no!" I yelled.

This book is dedicated to ____________________,
who makes me laugh.

Here are some silly stories to make you laugh!

Who makes me laugh?

This book is dedicated to ____________________.
You'll never believe what happened on Thursday. A ________________ came to my birthday party! ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

On Friday, our class took the most amazing field trip. Believe it or not, we went to ____________________________.
On Wednesday, a __________________ got loose in our classroom!

And on Saturday, the silliest thing of all happened. I was reading a book about ____________________________, when suddenly I was inside the book! Here’s what happened:

When suddenly I was inside the book, all happened. I was reading a book.

And on Saturday, the silliest thing of
This year I have learned

__________________________________.

I would like to learn

__________________________________

because

__________________________________

by ________________________________
The name of my school is ________________________________.

I'm in grade ________________________________.

Every weekday I get ready for school.

First, I ____________________________.

Next, I ____________________________.

Then, I ____________________________.
One funny thing that happened at school was ________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

A neat field trip we took was
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
If I were principal for a day, my favorite place at school is...

because...
Would you rather live with 100 ants or 100 butterflies?

Why? _______________________

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

by ________________________
Happy 100th day of school!

What would you choose if you could have 100 of anything?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

If you had 100 dollars, what would you buy?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
If you had to eat 100 of one sort of food, what would you choose to eat?

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What could you do 100 times that would make you tired or sore?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
If it was your 100th birthday, how would you spend your day?

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Would you rather have 100 pet snakes or 100 pet dinosaurs?

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Whenever he went to a restaurant,

The Lonely Giant

by

41
Once upon a time, there was a very lonely giant. He was lonely because

Whenever he went to the park,
Then one day, ______________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

From that day on, ______________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
The giant was so sad. He said to himself,
Dear Big Bad Wolf,

Everyone thinks you're the bad guy.

Here's what you could do to have more friends:

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Dear Cinderella,
I see you are very sad. Here's what you should do:

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Dear Goldilocks,
I have some suggestions for you.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Dear Jack,
If I were you, I would _______________

Dear Little Red Riding Hood,
If I were you, I would _______________
Dear Hansel and Gretel,

Next time you're lost in the woods,

Dear Hansel and Gretel,
And I love
because

Happy Valentine's Day!

by

15 Wonderful Writing Prompts Mini-Books © Scholastic Teaching Resources
Happy Valentine's Day!

I love my __________________________
because ___________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Look at what I wrote on these candy hearts!

One of my favorite people in the whole world is __________________ because____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
The best thing about Valentine's Day is ________________________________

I want to send a valentine to my friend ________________________________.

My friend is special because ________________________________.

I want to send a valentine to my friend ________________________________.

______________________________
My Buggy Book

Which bug really bugs you?

Why?

Which bug would make a pretty good pet?

Why?

by ____________________________
If you could be any bug, which bug would you be?

Why?

Which of these bugs have you seen outside?

Now describe a bug that nobody knows!

This bug
The best thing in my dream bedroom would be ___________________.

It would be fun to have it because ____________

_____________________

_____________________

_____________________

One last thing! In my dream world, I would

_____________________

_____________________

_____________________

The book character I would be friends with is ___________________.

We would ____________

_____________________

_____________________

_____________________

by ___________________
My dream pet would be a _________________.

It would ______________

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________

On my dream vacation I would go to ______________

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________

In my dream world, I would be ____________ years old. Then I could

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________

At my dream school,

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________
Did you ever wonder why the elephant has such a long trunk? The elephant started out with a very small nose, but
Once upon a time, there was a boy who drank his orange juice and then turned invisible.

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who helped a frog that was stuck in the mud. The frog turned out to be a magic frog, and it gave her three wishes!
Do you know why the leopard has spots? It's because...
Once upon a time, there was a boy who wished he had some brothers and sisters. Instead, he woke up one morning to find twelve elves in his room! He said,