AIFreeForever

The Creative Writing Prompt Guide for 2026

A writing prompt is a short starting point: a place, a character and a problem that make you want to write the next line. This guide covers the five writing types, how to pick a perspective, a 15-minute writing routine, example prompts for six genres and a page to plan your own writing week.

The five writing types

1. **Short story.** A complete story with a beginning, middle and end. Good for a weekend project.
2. **Flash fiction.** A very short story, under 1,000 words, built on one sharp turn. Good for a 30-minute session.
3. **Scene prompt.** One moment in time: an argument, a discovery, a goodbye. Good for practising detail and pace.
4. **Dialogue prompt.** Two or more characters talking. Good for practising voice and what people leave unsaid.
5. **Journal entry.** A reflection in one person's voice. Good for daily practice and for finding a character's inner life.

How to pick a perspective

- **First person** ("I opened the door") puts the reader inside one head. Best for secrets, confessions and journal entries.
- **Third person** ("She opened the door") gives you room to move between places and people. Best for most short stories.
- **Dialogue-based** tells the story through what characters say. Best for tension between two people.
- **Letter format** tells it through letters, messages or diary pages. Best for stories that cross time or distance.

A 15-minute writing routine

Example prompts for six genres

Genre	Prompt
Fantasy	A clockmaker's apprentice finds that every clock in the shop counts down to someone's last wish. Tonight, the oldest one starts ticking for her.
Mystery	Each morning a baker finds one loaf missing and a hand-drawn map in its place. The seventh map leads to her own cellar.
Sci-Fi	On a colony ship, a botanist hears the greenhouse plants humming a song from her grandmother's childhood.
Romance	Two rival food-truck owners must share one parking spot for a whole summer festival.
Drama	A father and his grown daughter clear out the family home and find the one box neither wants to open.
Adventure	A twelve-year-old finds a treasure map inside a library book that is forty years overdue.

Mistakes to avoid

Waiting for the perfect idea: any prompt works if you start. **Fixing while you write:** edit tomorrow, not now. **Following the prompt too closely:** it is a door, not a fence. **Always the same genre:** one new genre a week stretches your skills. **Writing only when inspired:** a short daily session beats one long one a month.

Plan your writing week

Fill this in, then get prompts for each day on the Creative Writing Prompt Generator.

Your topic or idea for this week

The genre, tone and writing type you will try

The days and times you will write for 15 minutes
