



## STORY & PLOT PROMPTS

### NEW STORY PROMPTS

1. Write a story that begins with the words, "Yes, it's true."
2. Write a story that puts a new twist on an old legend.
3. He jumped at me and I....
4. Write a story where your main character driving home from work, and he/she sees someone who needs help, but not in a usual way.
5. Write a story about a banker, an exchange student, and a florist stuck in an elevator with no lights.
6. Write about how a kettle changed the life of young girl.
7. Write a story about depression and dancing.
8. Write a humorous story about a man who turns into a banana slug at midnight.
9. Write a story about a chocolate bar.
10. Write a fantasy where a nurse can absorb the best and worst traits of her patients.
11. Write a story about a priest who falls in love.
12. During a dare, your character accidentally brings a genie back to life.
13. Write a story about a nerdy girl who can change the world.
14. Write a story about a kid and his suspicions about the next-door neighbor.
15. Write a day in the life of someone who is extremely accident-prone.
16. A baby lion finds itself lost in the big city...what happens next?
17. Describe the most disappointing gift you've ever given. What did the gift reveal about the receiver?



18. Write about a character that has lost the 100 million dollars they won in a lottery.
19. You are home alone when suddenly...
20. Write a story that centers on the family photo album.
21. Write a story about walking through a rainbow and ending up in a parallel plane of existence.
22. Write a story in which a ghost serves as your main character.
23. Write about how an incident involving a missing child in Florida affected an elderly man from Iowa.
24. Write a story about a homeless man who listens to opera music.
25. Write from the point of view of the handbag used by your main character.
26. Choose 3 pictures from albums or magazines. Weave a story that includes the pictures.
27. Choose 5 words at random from the dictionary. Create a story with them.
28. A beggar has won a million dollars in a lottery. What happens next?
29. A group of students stumble upon a cave when on a picnic in the forest.
30. Write a story that includes this sentence: "This bracelet is the only way that you can enter the castle."
31. A spaceship stumbles onto a planet full of intelligent aliens that look like frogs.
32. The new house owner discovers an old photograph in the attic.
33. A woman lies to save her friend from trouble.
34. A man finds a body. There are no clues except for an elaborate gold watch clutched in the deceased's hand.
35. A random cleaning up of the house leads to the discovery of an old diary.
36. Write about your worst enemy becoming your best friend (or vice versa).
37. Plot a murder mystery in 400 words or less. Now plot a romance in 400 words or less. Now plot a horror story in 400 words or less. Can you combine the 3 stories into one?



38. Write a plot outline for your favorite movie. Choose 3 places where you would change the plot to make it a different story.
39. Pick 3 headlines at random from today's news and create a plot around them.
40. Choose 5 words at random from the dictionary. Weave a story about those words.
41. Pick one of your favorite movies with a happy ending. Now add a twist where everything goes wrong. Write your story about what happens next. (Change the characters a little to make them yours.)
42. Take a story or situation you find interesting and swap the gender roles of the two main characters (assuming a male and female). How does the story change now that the gender has changed?
43. Take a story of situation you find interesting and place it in a different culture (ideally one you are familiar with). How does the new culture change the story?
44. Choose a character from history and place them in an interesting place in modern times.
45. Write a story about the end of a long friendship.
46. A man wakes up in the morning and looks in the mirror. Another man's face stares back at him. Write the story of what happens next.
47. Choose someone from your high school yearbook and write a story about them.
48. Take a fairy tale and twist it to become something darker and contemporary.
49. Write a story about deceit.
50. Choose two opposites and write a story about two characters with those characteristics, e.g a liberal democrat and a conservative redneck.
51. Write a story where the main character is a reincarnation of a famous figure such as Buddha, John F. Kennedy, etc.
52. Write a story about a stowaway.
53. Write a story that involves the scent of jasmine.
54. Write the story of someone who nearly won a big prize, but didn't.
55. Write a story about a woman who celebrates Christmas in July.





## EXISTING STORY/PLOT PROMPTS

56. What would happen if your character could fly whenever he/she wanted? When would they use this ability?
57. What would happen if your story occurred in outer space...or some other unusual location?
58. Can you get two key characters to co-operate less? Or could they cooperate more?
59. What would happen if you added a new secondary character?
60. What if you took out one of your existing secondary characters?
61. What would happen if two of your characters wore the same clothes in one or more scenes?
62. Let the main character find something they don't expect.
63. Did one of your characters used to be a bully? How is that affecting his/her life now?
64. Try writing the story backwards. Write the last scene first. Then the next-to-last, etc.
65. Are things too easy for your main character? Make them harder.
66. Have your character make an unusual decision.
67. Give your character a surprise.
68. Make you character laugh.
69. Make your character cry.
70. Add confusion to your story.
71. Add a secret to your story.
72. Add grief to your story.
73. Add a nasty habit.
74. Add laughter to your story.
75. Add a character who interferes.
76. Add an important attic.



77. Add a mistaken identity.
78. Simplify the story.
79. Add a baby to the story. (Doesn't have to be a human baby).
80. Incorporate death into your story.
81. Add blindness to your story (real or metaphorical).
82. What would happen if one of your characters forgot something important?
83. What would happen if an alarm didn't go off when it was supposed to?
84. What would happen if an appointment got cancelled?
85. A helicopter lands unexpectedly near a character...
86. A character is mistaken about something.
87. Someone surprising comes to visit.
88. A tense moment gets interrupted by something humorous.
89. A humorous moment becomes deadly.
90. What would happen if you changed the race of one of your characters?
91. What would happen if you changed the cultural background of one of your characters?
92. What would happen if you changed the gender of one of your characters?
93. Did your characters know each other in the past? What if they did? What if they didn't?
94. How would your story change if one of your characters had a disability?
95. What is the worst thing that happens to your main character? Make it worse.
96. Add a ticking clock or shorten the timeframe for an existing deadline. (A ticking clock is a deadline of some sort.)
97. Plot out a subplot that could intertwine with your main story.
98. Take a subplot and brainstorm how to make it a story of its own.
99. Make your main character even less equipped to deal with the dramas of your plot than he/she is at the moment.



100. Give your villain/antagonist better skills and motivation.



## SELF-INTROSPECTION TO SPARK STORY IDEAS

101. If you could be any person in the world, who would you be, and why?
102. Describe a place you remember from your childhood.
103. How did you meet your closest friend?
104. Write a list of 25 activities you want to do in your life.
105. Write a list of 25 feelings you want to feel in life.
106. What is something you do well?
107. What would have happened if you didn't leave the house this morning?
108. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?
109. What are your hobbies? Why do you like them?
110. What sets you apart from the crowd?
111. What do you want to be remembered for?
112. What is the nicest thing you have done for someone?
113. Write down your first five memories.
114. What is the greatest lesson you've learned so far in your life?
115. If you could invent anything new, what would it be?
116. Tell your life story from someone else's point of view.
117. If you could have three wishes, what would they be?
118. How would you spend a found \$20 bill?
119. What is the most exciting thing that ever happened to you?
120. What is your favorite month of the year?
121. How old do you feel?
122. What is the most vivid nightmare you've ever had?
123. Name some things you are thankful for.
124. What was your favorite childhood toy?



125. Who is your favorite relative and why?
126. If you had to kill someone, who would it be?
127. What is the saddest thing that ever happened to you?
128. What is the scariest thing that ever happened to you?
129. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?
130. Who would you never lie to? Why?
131. Who do you wish you'd lied to? Why?
132. How would your best friend describe you?
133. How would your boss describe you?
134. What exciting decision do you wish you'd made?
135. What things do you regret in your life?
136. What type of neighbor would you move to get away from?
137. What would you do if you found \$10,000 in front of your house?
138. Would you get a tattoo on your face?
139. What is your biggest secret?
140. What door would you never open?
141. Are you a good son/daughter?
142. Where is your heart?
143. What would you do if your spouse told you they'd cheated and apologized?
144. What would you do if you discovered your spouse had cheated on you?
145. What is your best characteristic?
146. What is your worst characteristic?
147. How would you feel if you were fired?
148. What is your perfect job? What is the opposite job to this?
149. Describe how it feels for you to touch a gun.
150. What bone would you least like to break? Why?



### FIRST LINES

151. On the night of her thirtieth birthday, Katy Benton did the stupidest thing she'd ever done.
152. It was hate at first sight.
153. Brett Tanner surveyed the scene in front of him and decided sanity was overrated.
154. Jill Weston was watering her orchids when she heard her brother had escaped.
155. Waking up as an insect was a bit of a drag.
156. When Sharon opened the door of the closet, she could not see her clothes, but a beautiful forest.
157. Truth came slowly. After a while, I wished it hadn't come at all.
158. The fifth positive pregnancy test finally convinced Calypso Jones that she was pregnant.
159. In the distance a small ball of dust, growing slowly larger, heralded the approach of a car.
160. Setting the fire had seemed like a good idea at the time.
161. Summer-Dawn Cantato decided to change her name to Cathy Smith.
162. I am writing this in the dark so no-one can see my words.
163. My mother is...
164. My father never...
165. Following your heart is a bad idea.
166. I didn't go to looking for redemption, but somehow I found it.
167. The dog wasn't supposed to be dead.
168. A rustle sounded behind the parked car.
169. The best day of my life was followed by the worst.
170. If you have a bird in the hand, let it go.
171. It wasn't supposed to rain on the day of my....



172. No one told me wearing adult diapers would be fun.
173. "Get your sorry ass out of my ..."
174. On my twenty fifth birthday, I swore I'd never..... again.
175. Having one more drink seemed like such a good idea at the time.
176. "Wanna get laid tonight?"
177. Kelly Green dumped the oil filter from her beaten up Chevy onto the garage floor. She felt pretty much like the greasy filter. Used, dirty, and totally unwanted.
178. Gabe McArthur slid his Beretta from the small of his back and held it loosely in his hand. Some night noises were natural. The steady clunk-clunk coming from the garage wasn't.
179. Getting arrested turned out to be a good thing.
180. She didn't dare to turn on any lights.
181. A pair of headlights appeared in the distance, sending shivers down her spine.
182. Jake Carstairs knew he should have ordered coffee when the waitress pulled a gun on him.
183. Pete Moran was rudely awakened by a woman's bloodcurdling scream.
184. Honesty proved harder than chastity.
185. Brittany Clover first learned to spell 'kleptomaniac,' then she decided to become one.
186. After five babies in six years, Hannah Garrison decided to become an astronaut.
187. The summer started quietly.
188. The world started to make sense when Joel Denton's father committed suicide.
189. Jill Landis thought she was an only child.
190. Matt heard a ringing bell.
191. The only thought in Mindy Sampson's mind as she surveyed the body of her ex-husband, was how he got tire marks on his hands.



192. Death would have been too easy.
193. The rumors were true.
194. She'd always thought she'd die at sunrise.
195. "I am not a virgin".
196. He fooled me twice.
197. Clever women should come with a warning.
198. The dog sat by his master until long after the body cooled.
199. The night she tried her first martini was the night that changed Kristy Thomas's life.
200. She'd tried the shoe on the other foot and it sucked.



## SITUATION PROMPTS

201. A broken watch
202. One thing wrapped inside another
203. Something soft and fluffy
204. A race that needs to be lost
205. Destroying something you thought was indestructible (something non-physical)
206. Children laughing
207. A cut on the face
208. A woman's shattered hopes for her child
209. A sickness no-one knows about
210. Strange drawings on the windows of the school bus
211. A book that's been read over and over and over
212. A tornado
213. A mop
214. Something funny that takes on a very serious meaning
215. A lock of dyed blonde hair
216. A ripple in a lake
217. Waterfalls
218. The prairies
219. A boy who looks like a girl, or vice versa
220. A wreath of pinecones
221. A really somber person
222. An invasion of privacy
223. A fingerprint
224. The smell of rosemary



225. Two people arguing over who was right
226. Bubbles in the sunlight
227. A bobcat
228. One single hair
229. A bone dug out of the ground
230. A rare fish
231. Sand
232. A foggy summer day
233. Offending someone accidentally
234. People wearing green
235. Having hail raining down on you
236. Being confronted with a big bill
237. A tea party
238. A plane ticket for free
239. Getting embarrassed
240. A promise
241. Having to pretend you don't know something.
242. Dried beans
243. A tattoo on someone's wrist
244. Vanilla scent
245. A person who plans something evil.
246. Rubbing lotion with a lavender scent
247. The religious significance/symbolism of oil
248. A common phobia
249. A judge ignores the law
250. Vampires



251. Piles of leaves
252. Someone keeps changing her clothes
253. An elaborate pattern on a rug
254. A dance that reminds you of a sad occasion
255. A betrayal by someone you don't yet know
256. A steady rainfall on a summer's day
257. Senseless violence
258. A deep blue-green dress
259. Being tired at the beginning of the day
260. Running away from your responsibilities
261. The urge to commit suicide
262. An old songwriter
263. An empty box
264. An unexpected bank account
265. A hammer used by someone you loved
266. A surprising will
267. Footsteps in the dirt
268. A velvet moon
269. Waking up next to someone you don't know
270. Forgetting a face
271. Remembering a melody
272. A leaking roof
273. A broken nose
274. Leftover pizza
275. A tree has grown too tall
276. Cold dirt



277. Dead coral
278. Smoke coming from the chimney of an abandoned house
279. A damp coat
280. The bitter taste of...
281. A shop closes early
282. Friends don't arrive
283. A dead salmon on the table
284. A town floods
285. A man slips into a crevasse
286. An empty boat drifts into port
287. The sound of a guitar drifts through the night
288. Feathers fall from the sky
289. The wind blows hot from the south
290. Melted caramels
291. A siren wails closer and closer
292. A door opens
293. Ice cream
294. An enemy knocks at the door
295. The water is cut off
296. The sun sinks behind a haze of smoke
297. A whisper is heard in an empty room
298. A set of evening clothes arrives in the mail
299. A human foot washes up on shore
300. A child disappears
301. An important decision needs to be made
302. A secret needs to be confessed to someone else



303. Someone's pride has been injured
304. A death has occurred
305. Someone has found or lost something
306. Someone has accused someone else of doing something wrong
307. Reminiscing on how things have changed
308. Someone feels like giving up
309. Something embarrassing has just happened
310. Someone has just reached an important goal
311. A jewel-encrusted ring is found in an ancient temple.
312. Think back to a time when you saw a stranger say or do something unusual.  
Write one page from the stranger's point of view.
313. A tattoo leads to a mysterious cave.
314. A clue is found in a second hand book.



## CHARACTER PROMPTS

### **NEW CHARACTER PROMPTS : WRITE ABOUT A CHARACTER WHO...**

315. Whose main characteristic is something you dislike about your best friend.
316. Whose main characteristic is something you do well.
317. Who has a favorite room that is important to him/her.
318. Who is a bad neighbor.
319. What has experienced the worst thing parents can do to their children.
320. Who has a favorite time of day.
321. Who yearns for a dull evening.
322. Who likes meddlesome people.
323. Who is optimistic about something strange.
324. Who is pessimistic about something unusual.
325. Who has an indispensable possession.
326. Who has a favorite song that makes him/her cry.
327. Who is really bugged by something that everyone else loves.
328. Who refuses to get angry.
329. Who loves to give advice -- but it's always bad.
330. Who has a big secret.
331. Who has made a decision they regret badly.
332. Who has a child he/she doesn't know about.
333. Who is adopted.
334. Who is smarter than he/she thinks.
335. Who has more courage than good sense.



336. Who is deeply in debt.
337. Who has cheated at something important.
338. Who wants to return home.
339. Who wants to escape from home.
340. Who has an injury no-one can see.
341. Who believes the world is flat.
342. Who is frightened by something they have discovered.
343. Who believes that everyone is innately good.
344. Who fears everyone is innately bad.
345. Who yearns for a sister.
346. Who is afraid of heights but wants to go skydiving.
347. Who is recreating his/her country upbringing in the city.
348. Who left town with a bad reputation.
349. Who set fire to their house as a child.
350. Who has never lived in the same place for more than a year -- ever.
351. Who has no sense of touch.
352. Who refuses to sleep under a roof.
353. Who is too clever.
354. Who did badly in school (for any reason).
355. Who is ashamed of something.
356. Who is obsessive about something.
357. Who fears getting dementia like his parents did.
358. Who is too confident.
359. Who doesn't want to change.
360. Who yearns to change.



## EXISTING CHARACTER PROMPTS

361. Which of your characters has a secret? What is it?
362. Your character has to make a serious decision and has no idea what choice to make. How does he feel? How does he make the decision?
363. Your character is being lectured by someone in a position of authority, how do they react?
364. What does your character most love to do when he/she has free time? Why?
365. Is there anything that makes your character feel safe? Something comforting? Describe what it is and why it makes them feel safe?
366. Describe the following things from your character's point of view. A forest. A crowded street. An empty park.
367. Put each of your characters in a busy supermarket. How does each character describe what they are seeing?
368. Describe your main character's hands in one paragraph, try to convey as much about his/her personality in the description.
369. Write some journal entries from your character's perspective.
370. Choose one character and let them write a lengthy description of another character.
371. What is the motivation that drives everything in the life of your main character?
372. Who does your character admire most?
373. Who does your character hate most?
374. What does your character dread most?
375. What are your character's feelings about home?
376. What does success mean to your character?
377. Write a page where your character meets someone he hasn't seen in a long time.
378. Write a page from the perspective of someone who is seeing your character for the first time in a long time.



379. Write a page from the perspective of someone who is meeting your character for the first time.
380. Write a scene where you character lies about everything.
381. Write a scene where your character tells the truth about everything.
382. Write a scene where your character prays.
383. Write a scene where you character encounters a new idea.
384. Write a scene where your character goes to a yoga class.
385. Write a scene where your character faces his own mortality.
386. Write a scene where your character is surprised.



## ASK YOUR CHARACTER THESE QUESTIONS....

387. What would you do if you did very poorly on an important exam?
388. What would you do if a friend borrowed your favorite possession but never returned it?
389. What would you do if you were a new teacher and everyone forgot his homework on the first day?
390. What would you do if your sailboat began to leak while you were far from shore?
391. What would you do if you were responsible for your friend breaking his/her leg?
392. What would you do if you saw ants in your pasta?
393. What would you do if you woke up somewhere unfamiliar and no one could understand you?
394. What would you do if you ordered a coffee and you forgot to bring money?
395. What would you do if someone got in front of you when you were lined up for the bus?
396. What would you do if the last piece of buttered toast fell upside down on the floor?
397. What would you do if only one cookie is left and neither you nor your friend have had one?
398. What would you do if two of your best friends went fishing/shopping without inviting you?
399. What would you do if you learned about a surprise party for you?
400. What would you do if you got a present you didn't like?
401. What would you do if you dropped the an expensive vase in a shop and it broke?
402. What would you do if you'd accepted a date from a guy/woman, but the guy/woman you REALLY liked asked you out on a date at the same time?
403. What would you do if you promised to feed your friend's pet and you didn't remember for two days?



404. What would you do if someone claimed you took their expensive pen and you didn't?
405. What would you do if your new shoes felt fine in the store but now they are hurting?
406. What would you do if someone told you a racist joke?
407. What would you do if an hour before your mother's birthday party you remember you don't have a gift?
408. What would you do if a friend comes to your house and tells you not to tell his/her spouse?
409. What would you do if someone blamed you for some problems at work which aren't your fault?
410. What would you do if you found a thousand dollars in an envelope on the street?
411. What would you do if you found a magic bottle?
412. What would you do if you wanted to get to know someone who only spoke Russian?
413. What would you say if someone told you it was all right to steal from a large supermarket?
414. What would you do if you saw a married friend flirting seriously with someone?
415. If you could have been someone in history, who would you have been?
416. If you could only take 3 people with you on a trip to the moon, who would you take?
417. If you could give any gift in the world, what would you give and to whom?
418. If you could live anywhere in the U.S, where would it be?
419. If you received any sum of money as a gift, what would you do with it?
420. If you could do whatever you wanted to right now, what would you do?
421. If you were five years older you would...
422. If you were lost in the woods and it got dark, what would you do?



423. If it were your job to decide what shows can be on TV, how would you choose?
424. If there were no rules, what do you think would happen?
425. If you owned a store, what would you do to discourage people from stealing from you?
426. If you could participate in an Olympic event, which one would you choose and why?
427. If you could break the Guinness Book of Records, what would it be for?
428. If you had to describe yourself as a color, which would you choose?
429. What do you think your friends say to each other when you're not around?



## DESCRIPTION & SETTING PROMPTS

### LOCATION PROMPTS

430. Write about a place where two rivers meet.
431. Write about your first home.
432. Write about a place you fear.
433. Write about the place where you experienced love for the first time.
434. Write about your first school.
435. Write about the location where you experienced the worst day of your life.
436. Describe the setting for a haunted house.
437. Describe the setting for a fight, either verbal or physical. Describe everything except the fight.
438. Describe the favorite rooms of your three main characters.
439. Describe a key location in your book from the point of view of three different characters in your book. (Can be any character, not necessarily a major character).
440. Change the location your book is set and rewrite the first scene.  
  
Do this several times with differing locations. Try locations very different from the one you originally chose. Which location adds the most depth to your story?
441. Choose a scene that lacks interest. Choose a different setting and rewrite the scene.
442. Write about a desert.
443. Set your story in a commune.
444. Add two more important locations to your story.
445. Add more of a neighborhood/community to your story.
446. Make your location a more extreme version of what it is. (More urban, more suburban, more foreign, etc.)



## DESCRIPTION PROMPTS

447. Describe everything that is touched by the characters in one of your scenes. Would the scene improve by including these descriptions?
448. Choose a scene and list all of the smells, sounds, tastes, and textures that are in the scene as you imagine it. How many of those made it to the page? Try adding 5 more.
449. Take five scenes at random and identify the non-speaking sounds that are mentioned in the scene. Are there any? What sounds should your characters be hearing? Describe them.
450. How many of your scenes include the smells that are in the environment? Pump up your scenes by adding at least one relevant smell.
451. Choose a scene and make taste an important part of the scene.  
  
Challenge yourself by choosing a scene that does not involve eating or drinking.
452. Choose a scene and ramp up the effect of the environment. If it's winter, make it really cold. If it's summer, make it really hot. Fall? Make it windy. Spring, ramp up the profusion of color. Write as extreme as you can.
453. Choose a photo you've never seen before (choose one online) and describe everything in it except the people.
454. Write a scene that uses all of the POV character's senses EXCEPT sight.
455. Highlight the descriptions in one scene and rewrite them so ONLY the POV character could have described them like that.
456. Think about what the light is doing in your scene? Is it dark, making things look grey and indistinct? Is it bright, making people squint? Add more of the effect of light in your scene.
457. Add an additional discomfort for the POV character in this scene.
458. Make the character aware of time passing and add the tension to the scene.
459. Try writing the scene slower so there is time for more description.  
  
If the scene needs to be fast-paced, try to write the description as briefly as you can, but don't lose it!



## EMOTIVE PROMPTS

460. Write about regret.
461. Write about fear.
462. Write about warmth.
463. Write about cold.
464. Write a page about an embarrassing, or painful incident that happened to you.
465. Write about the worst experience of your life.
466. Write about something you've never told anyone before.
467. What do you dread might happen this week?
468. Write about your most cherished hope.
469. Write about the item you'd most like to possess.
470. Write about someone you wish you'd never met.
471. Write about how you feel about your mother and/or father.
472. Choose a person who brings out strong emotions in you. Create a character and write about them experiencing those emotions.
473. Take the "emotional temperature" of each scene in your book. Try making your emotional highs higher and your lows lower.
474. Think about the worst event that could happen to you. Write a scene where it happens to you.
475. Think about the best thing that could happen to you. Write a scene where it happens.



## POINT OF VIEW & PERSPECTIVE PROMPTS

476. Choose your most dramatic scene and rewrite it from a different character's perspective.
477. Choose your most boring scene and rewrite it from a different character's perspective.
478. Write from the point of view of a door.
479. Write 200 words on the life of a mosquito.
480. Write from the perspective of the daughter of one of your characters.
481. Take a scene and examine the character whose POV it is in. Can you change something about that character that would make their perspective more dramatic?
482. Change something about your POV character's appearance that is significant enough to change their perspective on the events of one of your scenes. Is this change worth keeping, or not? If not, why?
483. Choose a scene and write it as if **you** were the POV character. Is the scene significantly different -- or were you writing it from your perspective all along? Make sure the original scene is totally from the perspective of the POV character.
484. Write/rewrite a scene from the perspective of a blind woman.
485. Choose a scene from a published book and rewrite it from three different perspectives. E.g. A homeless man, a florist, a priest. (You choose the 3 characters).
486. Write an exciting day in the life of a strawberry.
487. Write three paragraphs in the POV of a cloud.



## NON-WRITING ACTIVITIES TO PROMPT IDEAS

488. Take some time out of your day to people watch. This works especially well in a coffee shop, restaurant, or some other public place where interaction is the norm. Jot down observations about the people around you.
489. Read poems or song lyrics to spark ideas and emotions.
490. Meditate...but let your mind wander at will.
491. Watch a movie or TV show and analyze the plot.
492. Watch a movie or TV show and decide how you would change the characters to make the show more interesting.
493. Watch a movie or TV show and consider how you would change the last 3 scenes.
494. Catch a bus or train and listen in to conversations.
495. Watch a show with the sound turned off. Create a story from what you see happening. You may want to watch just a few scenes and then turn off the TV and start brainstorming.
496. Light some aromatic candles and set a timer for five minutes. Close your eyes and focus on the smell. How would you describe it? What about if you were a wrestler, how would you describe it? Keep thinking up different characters and find alternate descriptions for the smell.
497. Turn on some music and set a timer for 5 minutes. Now, following the procedure of the previous prompt, describe what you are hearing from the perspective of as many characters as you can. If you can hear other sounds, include them as well.
498. Now try touch: Pick something nearby that is not smooth. Set a timer for five minutes and close your eyes. Describe the touch you are feeling from the perspectives of different characters.
499. Now try taste: Pick something you can continue to eat or drink for five minutes and describe the taste from the perspective of different characters.



## LASTLY...

500. Believe in yourself! You have the power to create wonderful stories. Let them loose!