



## Writing Prompts

Objective: ...draft compositions for specific audiences and purposes in a variety of modes

Writing prompts should help develop students' personal, creative, and critical responses to texts. To help scaffold their responses, first use the prompts as discussion guides to help them verbalize and organize their ideas.

### Respecting the Disrespectable



Living in the Underland required its inhabitants to respect creatures with GREAT differences. Some of those were quite DISrespectable by our standards, but respect wasn't just a matter of good manners. Respect was a matter of SURVIVAL. Being different did not mean being better or worse.

With your partner or cooperative group, make a list of actions that you know show respect. Then, interview people from other cultures and from different age groups to ask how they are expected to show respect to one another. Discuss why these actions are necessary.

For your school newspaper, write an article about respect and why it is important in your school. If survival isn't at stake, what is? Why should everyone in the school practice respect? How would that respect look? How would that respect sound? How would that respect feel? If your article can make a difference in the lives of only one or two, you have brought light into the darkness.

### Character Changes



Write a two page composition explaining how Gregor changed during the adventure. What was he like before his father left, before he fell into the Underland, and during his stay there? How was he different by the time he left? Did being in the darkness help him to get his own light burning?

How have you changed? What were you like several years ago? Besides being older, how are you different today? Have problems helped you to grow kinder, stronger, more independent, gentler, or smarter? Write a one page composition explaining the changes in your life.

### A World without Wood—My Futuristic Science Fiction Story



In the Underland, there was very little wood. It was precious. Why was that? What did they substitute for wood? Is there any reason that the absence of wood could be damaging to their civilization?

What about wood in your civilization? How important is it? Make a list of all its uses today. Put stars beside the most important uses.

Write a science fiction story set in the future about a time when trees became precious to people because there were so few. How were their lives different? How would the loss of trees spell doom for life on earth unless a solution was found? What caused the problem? What would your hero do to save the earth? Would he use time travel? Would he design a synthetic tree? Would he develop new material that could take the place of wood?

