

Turning Life Into Story - Writing Prompts for Students

Step 1: Gather Your Moments

Write down three powerful moments from your life that made your heart race or stayed in your memory.

Prompt: Write three words for each moment that capture the feeling.

Step 2: Slow Down Time

Choose one moment. Close your eyes and remember:

- What could you see?
- What could you hear?
- What could you smell?
- What could you touch?
- What could you taste?

Prompt: Write two sensory details for each sense.

Step 3: Find the Heart

Ask yourself:

- What was I feeling?
- What did I want?

Prompt: Write one sentence for each question.

Step 4: Step Into a Character

Turn your moment into a scene for an invented character.

Prompt: Change the setting, name, or time, but keep the same emotional truth.

Step 5: Braid Truth with Fiction

Mix your real memory with made-up scenes and dialogue.

Prompt: Add one fictional event or conversation to your scene.

Step 6: Let the Theme Emerge

Ask: What bigger idea is in this story? (e.g., courage, friendship, justice)

Prompt: Write that word at the top of your page to guide your scene.

Step 7: Revise for Impact

Read aloud: Does it make your heart beat faster or bring tears to your eyes?

Prompt: Cut or change one detail to make it stronger.