



Summer Journal Ideas



Create a summer writing journal, decorate it anyway you'd like. Then respond to these prompts:

Writing Prompt 1:

Summer Photo Inspiration:

When do you feel the arrival of summer has come? When school lets out? In mid-June? On the first day that reaches 85 degrees? Does summer assert itself into being just by calendar days or by other environmental factors too?

Writing Prompt 2:

Write about one of the five senses (related to your summer experience):

- The smells of summer
- The sights of summer
- The sounds of summer
- The touch of summer
- The tastes of summer



Writing Prompt 3:

What is your favorite summer memory? How old were you when it happened? For 10 minutes relive that memory through writing about it as if you were right there recording it in real time.

Writing Prompt 4:

Summertime conjures up images of full-blooming nature, fluttering butterflies, and nighttime crickets. It also reflects sweltering sheets, stagnant heat, and restless nights where flipping over a cool pillow is the only way to survive. Write a poem that captures a summer evening's essence in all of its beauty or beast-ness.



Writing Prompt 5:

This windmill is from an early 1900s guest riding ranch in the Chiricahua National Monument Mountains in Southern Arizona. Can you imagine how visitors spent long summer days riding horses through the steep mountain hills and valleys? What does this remind you about your favorite outdoor summer activities?

Writing Prompt 6:

Do you like the summer heat or do you spend most of your time in the cool, air-conditioned indoors? How do you think people coped with the heat before air conditioning and electric fans were invented?

Writing Prompt 7:

Did you ever climb trees when you were a child? How high did you go? Did you ever fall out of the tree? And how did the thick, full-leaved tree branches during summer insert themselves into your childhood play?



Writing Prompt 8:

Summer Photo Inspiration

Full, green thriving trees. Some trees are a hundred or more years old. Imagine living through 100 years of summers, watching families picnic, children play, outdoorsmen fish, and hikers blaze the trails. Imagine you are one of these trees. What have you seen in your vision of history?

Writing Prompt 9:



Imagine the weather gods suddenly decided that the summer season would be no more. Seasons would go from Spring to Fall to Winter. What does that prospect invoke in you? Are you happy? Sad? Glad? Mad?

Writing Prompt 10:

Summer flowers are one of nature's most beautiful works of art. What other natural art does summer bring forth from the earth, sea, or sky?

Writing Prompt 11:

What do you think the symbolism of summer is in relation to the human life span?

Writing Prompt 12:

What is the summer season like where you live? How is it different from other parts of the world?

Writing Prompt 13:

Summer Photo Inspiration

"Knee high by the Fourth of July", "Don't swim for an hour after you eat", and "Dog days of summer". What other summer-related sayings come to your mind, and what does this image inspire in you?

Writing Prompt 14:

Go with the flow: Choose a prompting word from the following list and write about whatever comes to mind for five minutes without stopping.

Prompting Words List:



Sunny, warm, Fourth of July, picnics, outdoors, sunshine, hot, sticky, sweltering, insects, bugs, camping, swimming, Father's Day, dry, desert, air conditioning, electric fans, cooling, fishing, lakes, boating, summer, corn, carnivals, festivals, parades, beach, fun, celebrate, biking, hiking, campfires, pools, outdoors, Labor Day, watermelon, marshmallows, hot dogs, volleyball, horseshoes, Frisbee, sand castles, ice cream

Writing Prompt 15:

Summer Photo Inspiration:

If you live where summer is between 80 and 100 degrees for only three months out of the year, can you imagine living in a region where it is always hot and sticky? These Saguaro Cactus grow in Tucson, Arizona, where conditions are always hot and sunny. Could you live in the desert? Would you?

Writing Prompt 16:

Get a head start on the old "What I Did on My Summer Vacation" essay and write about "What I'm Going to Do on My Summer Vacation."

Writing Prompt 17:

Write about your dream vacation. If you could go anywhere or do anything this summer, what would you do?

Writing Prompt 18:
Use these ideas to start a story...

I was lounging on a beach on Maui when suddenly...

The last thing you expect to find in a swimming pool is...

Most kids set up a lemonade stand to make some money, but not us. We decided to...

This is going to be the last summer when I...

One thing I wish I'd done differently last summer is...

This summer I'm definitely going to...

The minute the fireworks started going off, I...

Writing Prompt 19:

Write a story about people from a land of perpetual summer visiting people from a land of perpetual winter, or vice versa.

Journal Ideas

Start a journal entry with:

- I remember the first time that I...
- I'll never forget...
- I am the one who...
- I write because...
- No one can make me...
- If I were sure I'd never be caught, I just might...
- My life would be different if I'd never met...
- If someone went through my trash, they'd think...
- Nothing could have prepared me for the day that...
- I want to be famous for...
- I'm really good at...
- When I was a kid I always wanted...
- One place in the world I really want to go is...
- I wish I never had to...
- If I could have a second chance, I would...

Write about...

- A memory of something blue. Or red. Or yellow. But don't use the name of the color in your essay.
- A memory of the smell of vanilla. Or grape Kool-Ade. Or Play-Doh.
- the first time you walked home from school all by yourself.
- your earliest memory of your aunt or uncle.
- a memory of footprints in the snow.
- the first time you saw the ocean.
- the best Halloween (or Hanukkah or Christmas or other holiday) you ever had.
- a memory of rain beating on a windowpane.
- the first time you did something you weren't supposed to do.
- having to eat something that you didn't like.

Try an opening line:

- On a rainy night in London...
- He'd never noticed the diner on that street before. Had it always been there?
- It was half-past midnight when the paper clips revolted.
- Life as a vampire is difficult enough, but for the vegan vampire, it can be intolerable.
- That morning, we made a list of cafeteria foods that should be declared unfit for human consumption.
- If it weren't for the Northern lights...
- Her favorite word was "ghastly."
- I'd always imagined that a talking dog would have a deeper voice.
- By the time the lie had spread so far and wide that everyone believed it to be the truth, it was too late.
- The river people lived on, down in the deepest eddies, long after the farmers stopped believing in them.
- She clung to the steel bars of the fire escape, five floors above the alley, and wondered, "How did I get up here?"
- When I used to pretend I was a superhero, I always imagined myself with really cool powers. Invisibility. Super strength. Super speed. But never, never, in all my imaginings, did I ever think that one day I'd really, truly end up with the most uncool power of all.
- I woke up that morning to the smell of fried bacon and the sound of chickens clucking in the front yard -- my first hints that something wasn't quite right.
- Imogene Hornwinkle was the meanest, nastiest, most horrible girl in all of third grade.
- "If I must be a dragon," thought Fenwick, "it would be nice if I could blow at least a *little* bit of fire."

Use props as prompts:

- Cut a picture of three different people out of a magazine. Write about who they are and what happened when they met in an airport.
- Pick up three random items, each from a different room in your house. Write a story in which all three items are significant.
- Open up a high school yearbook. Pick someone you knew slightly, and write a story of what happened to him or her after graduation.
- Search a dictionary for a word you've never heard of. Use it in a story or poem.
- Copy down headlines from a tabloid newspaper, and turn one or more into a plausible story.
- Take five words chosen at random from a magazine article, and the opening line of a novel. Put them together in the same story.
- Find pictures of yourself as a child. Imagine your child self asking your present self to tell a story. What story to you make up?
- Walk into a shop you've never been in before -- one that you'd never had any inclination to go in before. What do you see? What do you hear? What are your reactions? Write about them.
- Go into a shop where you can find lots of interesting colors and textures: a yarn shop, a rock and gemstone shop, a hardware store, an office supply store. Find the most interesting items and create a story from them, or write an article about the origins of one of the items.
- Find postcards with funny pictures on them, and create a story or a poem from one of the pictures.
-