



Teen Writer! Video: “The Most Powerful Writing Prompt: What If...?”

Every writer has faced a blank white page and grappled with writer’s block. In this video, take a trek with award-winning writer Gina Catanzarite, who reveals the most powerful creative writing prompt there is: Asking *What if...*? Get those creative juices flowing and fill your pages with one-of-a-kind storylines and unique plot twists once you learn how to use this powerful prompt!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERCOMING WRITER’S BLOCK AND USING WRITING PROMPTS EFFECTIVELY.

[WriteShop – Creative Writing Prompts for Teens](#)

Plenty of prompts – drawing on events in your own life! – to get those creative juices flowing!

[Writer’s Digest Promptly Blog](#)

Experiencing writer’s block? Check out this blog devoted entirely to creative writing prompts!

[informED – The Psychology of Writer’s Block \(and How to Overcome It\)](#)

Once you understand the reasons behind your writer’s block, you’ll be able to beat it with these practical tips.

[Purdue Owl – Online Writing Lab – Symptoms and Cures for Writer’s Block](#)

Strategies that work for creative writing *and* writer’s block you experience when writing an academic paper.

[Writing Routines – What Great Writers Do About Writer’s Block](#)

It happens to everyone – even well-known published authors! Hear their tips about conquering writer’s block!

[ReedsyBlog – 50 Best Writing Website of 2020](#) From refining your fiction to learning about the publishing industry, explore these 50 recommended websites especially for writers!

Writer's Digest – Write Better Fiction Explore advice from experts and published authors about improving writing in a variety of fiction genres.

Sources for Reputable Teen Writing Competitions

- *ALWAYS* review contest guidelines *and* promised prizes very carefully. Have a parent, guardian, or school guidance counselor review the competition rules with you if you are unsure if the contest is reputable.
- A *few* reputable writing competitions charge small entry fees. *NEVER* enter competitions that charge substantial fees.
- Beware of “anthology schemes.” In short, these schemes ask you to submit your work for a “competition” and “winners” will be “published” in an anthology. Sometimes they charge entry fees for each piece of writing you submit. If your work is “chosen,” it will be “published” -- and then, of course, you can buy a copy of the anthology. *This is a money-making scheme. Everyone who submits writing gets “chosen” to be in the anthology, and they make their money from the submission fees and sale of anthologies.* These schemes are very common, and no industry professional sees them as credible samples of “published” work. Do not waste your money or your time on these anthology schemes.

SCHOLASTIC, INC. ALLIANCE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS AND WRITERS AWARD

This is the SuperBowl of student writing competitions – and you can choose your preferred format, from poetry to fiction to short story. It also has categories for visual arts awards. This is an excellent and respected competition to enter.

- **SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**
- **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN** – High School Communications Contest
- **NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION**

National Pacemaker Awards are awards for excellence in American student journalism, given annually since 1927. The awards are generally considered to be the highest national honors in their field, and are unofficially known as the “Pulitzer Prizes” of student journalism.

- **Poetry Out Loud competition** – National student recitation competition
- **Journalism Education Association** – Aspiring Young Journalist Award
- **Voice of Democracy essay contest** – Veterans of Foreign Wars

Share a writing prompt here and inspire other teen writers!

You can email your story to us at luminari@luminari.org

Learn more about attending Luminari's in-person camp Teen Writer! and explore scholarship opportunities: [Teen Writer!](#)

LUMINARI is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization that develops original programs to broaden minds, inspire innovations and promote community engagement. For more information about Luminari visit www.luminari.org, email luminari@luminari.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)