

PBS Learning Media Resources

Teen Writer!

Forget flat, one-dimensional fiction and give readers a story that will stick with them long after they finish the last page! From creative writing prompts to innovative tips to infuse your fiction with unique details, *Teen Writer!* is a fun way to take your stories from *just fine* to *fabulous!*

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!

[August Wilson on Writing](#) - In this video from August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand, Wilson and others discuss his unique writing process.

[Ralph Ellison on Writing](#) - In this video from the American Masters film Ralph Ellison: An American Journey, Robert O'Meally discusses the author's unique approach to writing. This resource is best used in a class or lesson on fiction writing.

[Lorraine Hansberry | A Raisin in the Sun: Hansberry's Writing Process](#) - Learn about the story behind the writing of *A Raisin in the Sun* in this video from the American Masters film, Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart, and how Hansberry's feelings about the purpose of writing are reflected in the characters and themes in her famous Broadway play. Students also explore how the process of writing a play is different than other forms of writing, how the relationship between the playwright and director impacts production, and how writing can go beyond social commentary and become a form of activism.

[Advice on Writing | Video Production: Behind the Scenes with the Pros](#) - KET producer, writer, and host Renee Shaw discusses the importance of good writing skills in production.

[Exploring the Creative Process | Global Oneness Project](#) - In this lesson, students explore the creative process and discuss what individuals and society gain from living a creative life. Reflective writing prompts are also included for students to demonstrate their understanding of the story.

[Literary Elements and Techniques](#) - Use these animated shorts to introduce or review literary elements and techniques like theme, setting, figurative language, characterization, and conflict. Can be used when students are just learning how to identify the most commonly used elements in poetry and literature or when a student needs a quick refresher.



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