

Halloween Writing Prompt Cards

48 original cards for story, opinion, explain and poem writing, sorted by grade band. Cards 41-48 use autumn themes for classes that skip Halloween. Print, cut along the dashed lines and pair each card with the Story Planner.

Grades K-2 · cards 1-8

1	The Pumpkin With No Face	Story
2	The Lost Black Cat	Story
3	The Ghost Who Was Scared of the Dark	Story
4	My Costume Can Talk	Story
5	The Best Costume	Opinion
6	Give or Get?	Opinion
7	Decorate a Pumpkin	Explain
8	Halloween Night Senses	Poem

Grades 3-5 · cards 9-24

9	The Wrong Porch	Story
10	The Costume Swap	Story
11	One Light On	Story
12	The Ghost's Job Interview	Story
13	The Candy Map	Story
14	The Scarecrow Who Wanted to Leave	Story
15	Costume Day at School	Opinion
16	Candy Corn Court	Opinion
17	Scary or Funny?	Opinion
18	Carve or Paint?	Opinion
19	Bats Are Not Villains	Explain
20	Why Leaves Change Color	Explain
21	A Safe Trick-or-Treat Route	Explain
22	Haunted House Sound Poem	Poem
23	Pumpkin Patch Haiku	Poem
24	A Potion for Bravery	Poem

Grades 6-8 · cards 25-40

25	Take One, Leave a Story	Story
26	The Jack-o'-Lantern's Night	Story
27	The Group Chat	Story
28	The Costume Rule	Story
29	Definitely Not Haunted	Story
30	The 100-Word Story	Story
31	An Age Limit for Trick-or-Treating?	Opinion
32	Move Halloween to Saturday?	Opinion
33	Homemade or Store-Bought?	Opinion
34	Costume Day or Career Day?	Opinion
35	From Turnips to Pumpkins	Explain
36	How a Pumpkin Rots	Explain
37	Why We Like Being Scared	Explain
38	The Moon's View	Poem
39	Found Wrapper Poem	Poem
40	Bat and Moth	Poem

Autumn themes, any grade · cards 41-48

41	Too Big for the Fair	Story
42	The Last Leaf	Story
43	The Squirrel's Big Plan	Story
44	The Windy Day Hat	Story
45	The Best Season	Opinion
46	A Class Garden	Opinion
47	How a Pumpkin Grows	Explain
48	Autumn Sounds	Poem

Types: Story (narrative), Opinion (opinion or argument), Explain (informative), Poem.

The 3-5 and 6-8 sets each end with 2 blank My Own Prompt cards.

Prompt Cards: Grades K-2

CARDS 1-4

Read the card aloud together. The starter gives a first sentence to copy or change.

STORY

Grades K-2



The Pumpkin With No Face

A pumpkin on the porch has no face yet. What face does it want, and who helps it get one?

Try starting with: *The pumpkin wanted a face that was...*

Skill: Character and ending

#1

STORY

Grades K-2



The Lost Black Cat

A little black cat gets lost on Halloween night. How does it find its way home?

Try starting with: *First... Then... At the end...*

Skill: Beginning, middle and end

#2

STORY

Grades K-2



The Ghost Who Was Scared of the Dark

A small ghost is scared of the dark. Who helps it feel brave?

Try starting with: *The ghost was scared because...*

Skill: Problem and solution

#3

STORY

Grades K-2



My Costume Can Talk

Your costume can talk for one night. What does it say to you?

Try starting with: *My costume said, "..."*

Skill: Speech marks

#4

Prompt Cards: Grades K-2

CARDS 5-8

Read the card aloud together. The starter gives a first sentence to copy or change.

OPINION

Grades K-2



The Best Costume

What is the best costume to wear? Give 2 reasons.

Try starting with: *The best costume is ___ because ___.*

Skill: Opinion and reasons

#5

OPINION

Grades K-2



Give or Get?

Would you rather hand out treats at the door or go trick-or-treating? Why?

Try starting with: *I would rather ___ because ___.*

Skill: Opinion and reasons

#6

EXPLAIN

Grades K-2



Decorate a Pumpkin

Tell a friend how to decorate a pumpkin with stickers or paint. Use 3 steps.

Try starting with: *First, ... Next, ... Last, ...*

Skill: Order words

#7

POEM

Grades K-2



Halloween Night Senses

Finish each line: Halloween night looks like..., sounds like..., smells like..., feels like...

Try starting with: *Halloween night looks like...*

Skill: Describing words

#8

Prompt Cards: Grades 3-5

CARDS 9-14

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

STORY

Grades 3-5



The Wrong Porch

Your family's prize pumpkin is delivered to the wrong house the morning of the town pumpkin contest. The kid who lives there thinks it is a gift.

Try starting with: *The pumpkin was supposed to be on our porch, but...*

Skill: Cause and effect

#9

STORY

Grades 3-5



The Costume Swap

Two friends grab the wrong costume bags. One opens a dragon. The other opens a banana. The parade starts in 20 minutes.

Try starting with: *I unzipped the bag and found...*

Skill: Character choice

#10

STORY

Grades 3-5



One Light On

At 7 o'clock every porch light on your street goes out except one. Describe the walk to that door.

Try starting with: *The street was so quiet that I could hear...*

Skill: Sensory description

#11

STORY

Grades 3-5



The Ghost's Job Interview

A young ghost interviews for a job at the haunted house, but it is terrible at being scary. Write the interview.

Try starting with: *"So," said the head ghost, "what makes you scary?"*

Skill: Dialogue

#12

STORY

Grades 3-5



The Candy Map

You find a hand-drawn map folded inside your candy bag. The X is somewhere in your own school.

Try starting with: *On Monday morning, I took the map out of my pocket and...*

Skill: Time-order words

#13

STORY

Grades 3-5



The Scarecrow Who Wanted to Leave

A scarecrow decides to leave the field the night before harvest. Write the story, then write a second ending where it makes the opposite choice.

Try starting with: *For the first time ever, the scarecrow stepped off its pole.*

Skill: Alternative ending

#14

Prompt Cards: Grades 3-5

CARDS 15-20

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

OPINION

Grades 3-5

Costume Day at School

Should your school have a costume day?
Give 3 reasons and a closing sentence.

Try starting with: *I believe our school should... One reason is...*

Skill: Reasons and closing

#15

OPINION

Grades 3-5

Candy Corn Court

Candy corn is on trial. Is it a great treat or the worst one in the bag? Argue your side.

Try starting with: *Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, candy corn is...*

Skill: Persuasive voice

#16

OPINION

Grades 3-5

Scary or Funny?

Which makes a better costume: something scary or something funny? Use examples.

Try starting with: *A funny costume beats a scary one because...*

Skill: Examples as evidence

#17

OPINION

Grades 3-5

Carve or Paint?

Is it better to carve a pumpkin or paint it? Think about safety, mess and how long it lasts.

Try starting with: *If I had to choose, I would...*

Skill: Weighing options

#18

EXPLAIN

Grades 3-5

Bats Are Not Villains

Bats show up on Halloween decorations. Find 3 true facts about bats and explain why they are helpful.

Try starting with: *Many people think bats are scary, but...*

Skill: Facts from research

#19

EXPLAIN

Grades 3-5

Why Leaves Change Color

Explain to a younger child why leaves turn red, orange and yellow in autumn.

Try starting with: *Leaves change color because...*

Skill: Explaining a process

#20

Prompt Cards: Grades 3-5

CARDS 21-24

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

EXPLAIN

Grades 3-5



A Safe Trick-or-Treat Route

Write a how-to guide for planning a safe trick-or-treat route with your family.

Try starting with: *Before you leave the house, ...*

Skill: How-to steps

#21

POEM

Grades 3-5



Haunted House Sound Poem

Write a poem made of the sounds inside an old house: creaks, drips, rattles. Give each sound its own line.

Try starting with: *Creak goes the...*

Skill: Sound words

#22

POEM

Grades 3-5



Pumpkin Patch Haiku

Write 3 haiku about a pumpkin patch: morning, afternoon and night. Count 5, 7 and 5 syllables.

Try starting with: *Orange in the mist...*

Skill: Syllables and imagery

#23

POEM

Grades 3-5



A Potion for Bravery

Write a recipe poem for a potion that cures being scared of the dark. List the ingredients, then the steps.

Try starting with: *Take one spoon of moonlight...*

Skill: Imagery and format

#24

YOUR IDEA



My Own Prompt

Write a prompt for a classmate. Swap cards, then plan it.

YOUR IDEA



My Own Prompt

Write a prompt for a classmate. Swap cards, then plan it.

Prompt Cards: Grades 6-8

CARDS 25-30

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

STORY

Grades 6-8



Take One, Leave a Story

The house nobody visits has its porch light on and a bowl of full-size candy bars. The note says: Take one. Leave a story.

Try starting with: *Nobody on our street had ever knocked on that door.*

Skill: Suspense and pacing

#25

STORY

Grades 6-8



The Jack-o'-Lantern's Night

Retell one Halloween night from the point of view of the jack-o'-lantern on the porch.

Try starting with: *They carved me at 4 o'clock and by 6 I had seen everything.*

Skill: Point of view

#26

STORY

Grades 6-8



The Group Chat

At 11:58 p.m. on Halloween, everyone in your class gets the same message from an unknown number. Tell the story through the messages.

Try starting with: *Unknown: Is anyone still awake?*

Skill: Dialogue and format

#27

STORY

Grades 6-8



The Costume Rule

Your school bans costumes that cover the face. Your best friend spent a month on a full mask. Write the morning she has to decide.

Try starting with: *She held the mask in both hands and...*

Skill: Inner conflict

#28

STORY

Grades 6-8



Definitely Not Haunted

Your narrator insists the old house is not haunted. By the last line, the reader should suspect otherwise.

Try starting with: *Let me be clear: there is nothing strange about my grandmother's house.*

Skill: Narrator's voice

#29

STORY

Grades 6-8



The 100-Word Story

Write a complete Halloween story in exactly 100 words, with a beginning, a problem and an ending.

Try starting with: *Write long first, then cut.*

Skill: Revision and word choice

#30

Prompt Cards: Grades 6-8

CARDS 31-36

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

OPINION

Grades 6-8



An Age Limit for Trick-or-Treating?

Some towns have debated an age limit for trick-or-treating. Should there be one? Address the other side.

Try starting with: *Some people argue that..., but...*

Skill: Claim and counterclaim

#31

OPINION

Grades 6-8



Move Halloween to Saturday?

Should Halloween always be celebrated on the last Saturday of October? Use at least 2 kinds of evidence.

Try starting with: *Moving Halloween to a Saturday would...*

Skill: Evidence types

#32

OPINION

Grades 6-8



Homemade or Store-Bought?

Which is better: a homemade costume or a store-bought one? Consider cost, creativity and time.

Try starting with: *The real cost of a costume is not only the price tag.*

Skill: Criteria-based argument

#33

OPINION

Grades 6-8



Costume Day or Career Day?

Your school wants to replace costume day with dress-as-your-future-job day. Write a letter to the principal.

Try starting with: *Dear Principal...*

Skill: Audience and tone

#34

EXPLAIN

Grades 6-8



From Turnips to Pumpkins

Research where the jack-o'-lantern tradition came from and explain how it changed over time.

Try starting with: *Long before pumpkins, people carved...*

Skill: Research and sequence

#35

EXPLAIN

Grades 6-8



How a Pumpkin Rots

Explain what happens to a carved pumpkin over 2 weeks and why it happens faster than to an uncarved one.

Try starting with: *Once the skin is cut open, ...*

Skill: Cause and effect

#36

Prompt Cards: Grades 6-8

CARDS 37-40

Cut along the dashed lines. Each card names the writing skill it practices.

EXPLAIN

Grades 6-8

Why We Like Being Scared

Why do people enjoy haunted houses when they know they are safe? Explain with evidence from your research.

Try starting with: *Your heart speeds up even though...*

Skill: Explaining with sources

#37

POEM

Grades 6-8

The Moon's View

Write a poem in the voice of the moon watching your town on Halloween night.

Try starting with: *From up here, the costumes look like...*

Skill: Persona and imagery

#38

POEM

Grades 6-8

Found Wrapper Poem

Collect words from candy wrappers and decoration packages. Arrange them into a poem without adding new words.

Try starting with: *Choose 20 words first, then arrange.*

Skill: Word choice

#39

POEM

Grades 6-8

Bat and Moth

Write a poem for two voices: a bat hunting and a moth trying to escape. Alternate their lines.

Try starting with: *Bat: I hear you... Moth: I hear you hearing me...*

Skill: Contrast and voice

#40

YOUR IDEA

My Own Prompt

Write a prompt for a classmate. Swap cards, then plan it.

YOUR IDEA

My Own Prompt

Write a prompt for a classmate. Swap cards, then plan it.

Prompt Cards: Autumn Themes

CARDS 41-44

Autumn and harvest prompts for any grade, for classes and families who skip Halloween.

STORY

Any grade



Too Big for the Fair

Your pumpkin grew so big it will not fit on the truck to the harvest fair. The judging starts at noon.

Try starting with: *We pushed, we pulled, and the pumpkin did not move.*

Skill: Goal and obstacle

#41

STORY

Any grade



The Last Leaf

One leaf refuses to fall from the tree. What is it waiting for?

Try starting with: *Every other leaf had let go, but...*

Skill: Character goal

#42

STORY

Any grade



The Squirrel's Big Plan

A squirrel needs to store food for winter, but someone keeps moving its acorns.

Try starting with: *The squirrel counted again. Three acorns were missing.*

Skill: Problem and solution

#43

STORY

Any grade



The Windy Day Hat

The wind steals your hat on the way to school and you chase it across town.

Try starting with: *The wind pulled my hat straight off my head and...*

Skill: Sequence

#44

Prompt Cards: Autumn Themes

CARDS 45-48

Autumn and harvest prompts for any grade, for classes and families who skip Halloween.

OPINION

Any grade



The Best Season

Which season is the best one of the year? Give reasons and examples.

Try starting with: *Autumn is the best season because...*

Skill: Opinion and reasons

#45

OPINION

Any grade



A Class Garden

Should your class plant a garden this spring? Convince your teacher.

Try starting with: *Our class should plant a garden because...*

Skill: Persuasive voice

#46

EXPLAIN

Any grade



How a Pumpkin Grows

Explain how a pumpkin grows from a seed to a fruit you can pick.

Try starting with: *It all starts with one flat seed.*

Skill: Explaining a process

#47

POEM

Any grade



Autumn Sounds

Write a poem about the sounds of autumn: crunching leaves, geese, rain on a window.

Try starting with: *Crunch under my boots...*

Skill: Sound words

#48