

THE WRITING PROMPT BOOT CAMP

TWO-WEEKS OF
CRAFT, CREATIVITY,
AND DISCIPLINE



BRIAN A. KLEMS & ZACHARY PETIT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost I'd like to thank my wife, who supports me no matter how crazy I sound or how big I dream. She puts up with a lot—thankfully I reward her with being so handsome. I'd also like to thank my mom and dad (I miss you dad). Never did they stand in the way of me following my heart and, because of that, I am forever grateful.

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—B.K.

To my muses. You know who you are.

—Z.P.

INTRODUCTION

Are your writing chops flabby from not enough writing practice? Break through writer's block with this free two-week boot camp of creative writing prompts geared to boost your creativity and help you get in the habit of writing every day.

With this sampling of prompts from *Writer's Digest Presents A Year of Writing Prompts*, you get a taste of what it's like to have daily writing goals and how much easier it is to reach them with a little help and guidance.

Here's how it works: Pick a time each day for next two weeks, grab your pen or keyboard, sit down and write a story based on the writing prompt provided for that day. It's that easy. *The Writing Prompt Boot Camp* provides creative exercises that will help you knock the dust off your muse and get your writing muscles in shape.

And, to keep that momentum going when the two weeks are up, download your copy of *Writer's Digest Presents A Year of Writing Prompts*. It's a sure-fire way to keep you inspired and motivate you to write year round.

Day 1

Breaking Up With Writer's Block

It's time for you and Writer's Block to part ways. Write a letter breaking up with Writer's Block, starting out with, "Dear Writer's Block, it's not you, it's me ..."

Day 2

The One That Got Away

You bump into an ex-lover on Valentine's Day—the one whom you often call “The One That Got Away.” What happens?

Day 3

Mystery Cookie

One Day you come into work and find a cookie mysteriously placed on your desk. Grateful to whoever left this anonymous cookie, you eat it. The next morning you come in and find another cookie. This continues for months until one Day a different object is left—and this time there's a note.

Day 4

Sent to the Wrong Printer

You're at work and you print something personal (and sensitive). Unfortunately, you've sent it to the wrong printer and, by the time you realize it, somebody else has already scooped it up.

Day 5

American Graffiti

You're downtown, and see graffiti in an unlikely place—graffiti like you've never seen before, concerning someone you know.

Day 6

Alphabet Poem

Write a 26-line poem using all the letters of the alphabet. Have the first line start with the letter “A,” the second “B,” the third “C,” etc.

Day 7

Back From the Future

A knock at the door catches you off guard. Upon answering it, you're greeted by a man who says he's from the future—and he can prove it. More important, he says he has information that will save your life.

Day 8

Full Disclosure

They toured the house with the real estate agent.

“We love it,” he said. “Is there anything we should know about the house’s past?”

The agent looked down.

Day 9

Obit for Your Favorite Character

Write an obituary for your favorite fictional character (literary, television, etc.), including how the death occurred.

Day 10

Dollar Message

You're at your favorite department store buying a birthday present for a friend. As the cashier gives you change, you notice a message with specific instructions scribbled on one of the bills. What do the instructions say? Do you carry them out and, if so, how?

Day 11

The Stranger

You're walking home from work one night and taking shortcuts through a labyrinth of dark city alleyways to meet someone on time. Suddenly, a stranger parts the shadows in front of you, comes close and asks you to hold out your palm. You oblige.

Day 12

My Resignation

After years of unhappiness, you've finally had enough and have decided to quit—but we're not talking about your job. Write a letter of resignation to someone other than your employer—your school, your family, your favorite sports team, etc.

Day 13

Breaking Down

A tire blows out as you're in the car with someone on the verge of his/her own breakdown.

Stuck in a small town, you're about to do something you haven't done in years.

Day 14

Matchup!

Write a story featuring a Ouija board, a search engine, and a self-help book.

Bonus Day 1

Sinking Ship

You realize the boat is sinking, but that's not the worst thing that could happen. The worst thing happened last night.

Bonus Day 2

Cellular Apologies

A stranger asks to borrow your cell phone. You agree. She turns away and talks on it for a moment, then faces you once more. “I’m sorry,” she says, eyes red. “I’m so sorry.” Then, she runs away.

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