Voklex — 11+ Creative Writing Prompts

30 exam-style tasks across the six 11+ writing types. Set a timer for 25 minutes and spend the first five planning: who is in the story, what goes wrong, how it ends.

The five-minute plan

Before writing, jot three things: **who** (one character, one place), **what goes wrong** (one problem), and **the ending** (echo the opening). Children who plan for five minutes write better stories in twenty than children who start immediately and write for thirty.

Story (narrative)

1. "The Locked Door." Write a story with this title.

2. Write a story that begins: "The map was tucked inside the book I borrowed."

3. "Lost." Write a story with this one-word title.

4. Write a story about a character who finds something valuable and must decide whether to keep it.

5. Write a story called "The Wrong Train".

Description

1. Describe a busy market on a Saturday morning.

2. Describe your favourite place outdoors, in all seasons or in one — your choice.

3. Describe a thunderstorm from inside a house.

4. Describe an elderly person you know well, so a stranger could recognise them.

5. Describe the school playground at the start of break time.

Continuation

1. Continue this story: "The lighthouse keeper had not missed a night in thirty years. Tonight, the lamp was dark."

2. Continue this story: "Nobody believed Maya when she said the garden shed hummed at night."

3. Continue this story: "The envelope said DO NOT OPEN UNTIL YOUR BIRTHDAY. Today was not my birthday."

4. Continue this story: "We were told to stay in the boat no matter what we heard from the island."

5. Continue this story: "The new boy knew everyone's name before he was told them."

Diary entry

1. Write a diary entry for a child on the evening of their first day at a new school.

2. Write a diary entry for someone who has just won a competition they expected to lose.

3. Write the diary entry of an evacuee child arriving in the countryside in 1939.

4. Write a diary entry for a goalkeeper the night after saving the decisive penalty.

5. Write a diary entry for someone whose best friend is moving to another country tomorrow.

Letter

1. Write a letter to your head teacher persuading them to keep the library open at lunchtimes.

2. Write a letter to a local newspaper about saving a green space near your home.

3. Write a thank-you letter to someone who helped you when it mattered.

4. Write a letter to your future self, to be opened on your eighteenth birthday.

5. Write a formal letter of complaint about a noisy building site next to your school.

Persuasive

1. "Children should not have mobile phones until secondary school." Give your view.

2. "Homework should be abolished in primary school." Argue for or against.

3. "Zoos do more good than harm." Discuss both sides and give your conclusion.

4. "Every child should learn a musical instrument." Give your view.

5. "Saturday school would help pupils learn more." Argue against this idea.