

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 1



Key Paragraph, p. 12

“My first pet peeve is when people don’t pronounce my name right. They’ll say Dee-za instead of Dez-uh, just like the first syllable of a desert, like the Sahara, which is geologically an arid, huge part of Africa” (p. 12).

Writing Prompt

Deza shares one of her pet peeves is when people don’t pronounce her name correctly. We all have our own pet peeves, Deza’s was people mispronouncing her name, some pet peeves are people who don’t cover when they sneeze, not saying please or thank you or bad drivers. What is your pet peeve? Why does it bother you so much?

In two explanatory paragraphs explain what your number one pet peeve is and why it bothers you, develop the topic with relevant facts and use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 2



9. Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 16

"Then I saw what it was. He'd be humiliated to death if any of his criminal friends saw him being dragged down the street by his father like a five-year old kid. I stood up, took the pie and said,

'I'll take him back. We'll return the woman's pie. Jimmie, promise them right now you'll come and won't give me any lip and will do everything I say'" (p. 16).

Writing Prompt

Deza volunteers to take Jimmie to return the woman's pie to save him humiliation by his friends. How does Deza embody the theme of Leadership Requires Engagement? In two paragraphs explain how Deza is a leader in her family and in her community. Consider the choices she made along the way. How does she make choices that help her bother and those around her?

Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote to common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort. Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be in.

Write a 2 paragraph explanatory text to examine Deza and her leadership capabilities in her family and in the community. Introduce your topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. Establish and maintain a formal style.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 30

"I tried to look humble while I waited for Clarice to walk up and get second place. Which is really about as good as first place. Just about. Well, not really, but that is a kind and comforting thing to say to second-place people. Then I remember what Mrs. Needham had said about change. No. I worked extra hard on this essay" (p. 30).

Writing Prompt

Deza is affected by her grade on the essay and she is shocked that she did not get an A. She was thrown a curve ball. As a leader, things don't always go the way we want them to when we want them to.

Write an informative/explanatory text in which you explain about grit and having a plan for when things go wrong. What is your plan if/when things go wrong? Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language to explain the topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 40

“No matter how well a mouse, or a human being, plans for the future, those plans “gang aft a-gley.” In other words, no matter how well you think something through, many times schemes simply will not work out. They will go astray” (p. 40).

Writing Prompt

Being a leader also means being prepared. Having a plan and a plan for your plan, sometimes your plan works out swimmingly and other times it doesn't. Think of a time that you thought you had thought a plan out and it just didn't work out. How did you feel and more importantly what you did to recover and move forward.

Write an informative/explanatory text to share your ideas. Introduce your topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Use precise language to inform about the topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 55

“Help me get these groceries into the kitchen, then we’ll both start working on our thank-you notes to that wonderful woman. As I picked up the welfare food Jimmie said, ‘you lucked up.’

I slapped his head.

‘No, Jimmie Malone, the truth is always the best way’” (p. 55).

Writing Prompt

As a leader, we are tasked with telling the truth to have people follow us, trust us, and respect us. Think of a time that a leader did not tell the truth. What was worse the lie or the desire to cover it up (think politics)? What are ways that you can save face while being truthful?

Write and informative/explanatory text to convey your ideas and information. Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions and details. Use appropriate transitions and maintain formal style.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 69

"I loved how I had raised my arm like I was carrying a magical sword and all the little thugs got quiet. They parted for me and Clarice like the Red Sea did for Moses! But most of all I loved knowing that when something was happening to someone I could do more than wring my hands. I could strike back (p. 69)."

Writing Prompt

Deza feels empowered to be able to take charge and do something to help. Think of a time that you were empowered to take control of a situation real or imagined. How did it make you feel? **Write an informative/explanatory paragraph in which you convey what happened to you and how you changed in the moment. Introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use precise language to better explain about the topic.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 83

“What does it mean when someone says you are a credit to your race? Mother and father shot each other a glance. Jimmie said, ‘It means some white person’s grateful that you left them in peace, that you didn’t stab’em or shott’em or rob’em.’ Mother said, ‘Jimmie please, give us the context Deza’” (p. 83).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Deza is asking a question about something the librarian said. Before responding Mother, wisely asks Deza to give context about what was said. Think about the meaning of context, *the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs*. Somethings that are taken out of context might be more offensive than they should be and vice versa. As a leader why is it important to know the context of thoughts, ideas, and statements? What can keep perspective help you accomplish?

Write an informative/explanatory text on the importance of context how, as a leader it is important to know and have, context prior to making decisions and judgments in and out of your family and community. How can context or lack of context make a situation better or worse? Introduce the topic clearly. Develop you’re your topic with relevant facts previewing what is to follow. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesions and to clarify relationships between ideas and concepts.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 8



Key Paragraph, p. 95

“Deza, you know I can’t tell you that. We’ll have to endure.’
‘Can I sleep with you until Father comes home?’ Mother hugged me tighter.
‘You read my mind; I was going to ask you if you would’” (p. 95).

Writing Prompt

One quality of being a leader is reaching out to others when you need assistance, asking for help. Deza realizes that she is going to need to have inner strength but in order to maintain that strength she asks her mother for help, in the form of sleeping with her to find strength. Think about the people, places, and things you do to find personal strength to lead. Who and where do you go for help. Why is it important to know when to ask for help?

Write an informative/explanatory text citing reasons and ways to ask for assistance. Introduce your topic clearly. Develop your topic with relevant details. Use appropriate transitions as you write. Conclude with a sentence that reinforces your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Might Miss Malone, Day 9



Key Paragraph, p. 112

“He said that some of the time you get through whatever hurt you and you think you’re all healed up, but there’s still something inside that can come back and kill you. Daddy beat Lake Michigan but now there’s something inside he’s still got to beat” (p. 112).

Writing Prompt

Daddy is still struggling with the events of being on the lake and losing his friends. He is trying to find his new normal. What do you think he could do to help himself heal not only physically but mentally?

Write an informative/explanatory text in which you share your ideas and thoughts. Introduce your topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts and details. Include individual experiences if helpful. Use precise transitions and language. Establish and maintain formal style.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 10



Key Paragraph, p. 127

“What if your word is not enough? What if this depression goes on for so long that you can’t find work even in flint? What good is your word then? Roscoe, we are our strongest when we are together, when we are a family” (p. 127)

Writing Prompt

The definition for leaders is to “*develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.*” Father is planning on leaving the family to find work. He knows that having one less mouth to feed will help the family and he hopes to find work and send money home (common good of the family). Mother claims that they are stronger together (common good of the family). Who do you think is right? Do you think that father is being a leader? Do you think there are other options rather than him leaving the family unit to find a good solution for everyone?

Write an informative/explanatory letter to father. Share additional options or suggestions that you have that support the common good of the community (family) without having him leave. Explain how having him there is positive for the kids and for his wife. Introduce your topic clearly. Develop your text with additional details and facts. Conclude with a statement which supports your

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 138

"The next day as soon as they left I got in bed again. There was a loud knock at the front door. It was Clarice.

'Deza! You look terrible.' Only somebody you share a heart with could say that and not get you upset. I gave her the tragic news about how we were going to have to move to Flint" (p. 138).

Writing Prompt

In today's reading Deza has been hiding from her family and trying to hide from their situation. She is trying to escape. Do you think that is a productive way for her to behave? She says she hasn't read a book in 4 days and she feels like she is starving.

Pretend you are Deza's mother and you know she needs to be up and about studying and being "Deza". Write an explanatory letter to Deza and give her tips and suggestions of things she can be doing right now to help the family and to contribute. Draw on her need for leadership and strength as you write. Introduce the topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion in your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 155

“Deza STEERS should have been spelled Deza’s Tears.’ Jimmie said, it is that corny hand signal you and Clarice give each other about having one heart. And those are two holes where it used to be before it was broken in two. What could I do? I hugged my big brother and choked out, ‘Thank you so much. Jimmie, this is perfect’ (p. 155)

Writing Prompt

Throughout the novel Jimmie has been portrayed as not very smart, fairly lazy, and not a great decision maker. However, he is talented and caring. Do you think that he is a leader or could be one without proper schooling? Explain.

Write an informative or explanatory text in which you describe the traits of a good leader. Introduce your topic. Support it with relevant details, quotes, and other informative examples. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Conclude with a sentence that supports your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 162-163

“Since we are not sure what our address in Flint will be, any mail we get in Gary will go to Flint. We’ll have to go to the post office there and pick it up. That made this whole moving-to-Flint-story seem a lot realer. And a lot sadder” (p. 162-163).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading they are evicted from their home and have to find a way to get to Flint, MI. Deza is speaking with her mom and reality sets in. She has two choices to be sad or to make the best of her situation. Leaders make hard choices. They have to decide to do and be better when situations are hard.

Write an informative/explanatory text in which you share a time in your life that you made a difficult choice. What steps did you take to make a bad situation better or difference? Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant details quotations and information. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language. Establish and maintain formal style.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 175

“Jimmie said,
‘What do you always tell me, Deza? The truth is the best way. We just gotta ask her what other choice we have if we’re gonna get to Flint and to Pa’” (p. 175).

Writing Prompt

Jimmie and Deza know they need to convince their mother to leave by rail. Jimmie decides that the truth is the best way for them to do what they need to do. How has Jimmie evolved or changed? What brought this on for him? How is he slowly becoming a leader?

Write an explanatory/informative text on Jimmie’s transformation. What changes are occurring in him to make him more of a leader to mother and Deza. Think back in the reading for examples. Introduce your topic. Previewing what is to follow. Give details to support your topic. Use transitions to support cohesion in your writing. Conclude with a statement which supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 15



Key Paragraph p. 194

“Everyone who has been on the road for a while comments on how clean this camp is, and it’s not by accident. We work hard at keeping it that way. We may be poor but that isn’t any excuse to live poorly. Cleanliness costs next to nothing” (p. 194).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Stew shows Deza the camp and explains the camp rules. She states that we may be poor but that isn’t any excuse to live poorly. What do you think she means by that statement?

Write a one paragraph text in which you explain her statement and its meaning to you. Add two to three examples of how you can live with kindness and respect regardless of your income. Introduce your topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Organize your ideas and information using a variety of strategies. Develop your topic using relevant facts, definitions, and quotations.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 16



Key Paragraph p. 215

“No, Deza. It’s fine that he stays. He works like a grown man so it’s only right that he starts living like one too. Much as I may want to, I can’t hold him forever” (p. 215).

Writing Prompt

Part of growing up is being let go. Part of being a leader is walking a path on your own. Why is this concept frightening and scary to people? How can you grow and still be supported?

Write an informative/explanatory text in which you detail how someone can be a leader/grow up but also maintain positive support from others. Introduce your topic. Give details to support your writing. Use transitions to create cohesion. Conclude with a sentence that supports your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 17



Key Paragraph p. 227

“It wasn’t like they were worried or feeling sorry for themselves, they had a look of surprise, like they couldn’t believe what had happened. You can’t know that feeling unless you’ve had it. One day you’re living in your own home, and then it seems like with no warning, the next day you’re carrying everything you own in a blaket or a sack or a ratty suitcase while being shooed from one place to another like a fly” (p. 227).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Deza and her mother are thrust into another change and location. Things are looking up when Deza’s mother is able to find them a room to rent. What advice would you give to Deza.

Write an informative/explanatory text in which you give her advice on what to do as they move into their room. Give her strategies to survive. Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Give details and examples to show your readers what is coming next. Conclude with a statement that supports your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 18



Key Paragraph, p. 232

"If mother had stopped checking the mail it meant that she had stopped hoping. But, who could blame her? I was pretty close to being there myself" (p. 232).

Writing Prompt

Deza and her mother had survived many challenges and trials and were in a positive and stable place. What are suggestions you can give them to help bring back hope?

Write an informative text in which you share with Deza ways to bring back hope and focus on the positives in her life. Introduce your topic and preview what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Conclude with a statement which supports your claim.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 19



Key Paragraph, p. 244

“She didn’t act near as excited as I thought she would. She kept looking from the letter to the two five-dollar bills. She flashed her 1-1-1 lines before she said, ‘Oh, Deza, isn’t this wonderful?’ Her heart wasn’t in those words. Maybe it was just relief, maybe you can hold on to something bad for so long that when you put it down you don’t trust the feeling” (p. 244).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading, positive things start happening for Deza and her mother but neither of them trust what is really happening. Part of being a leader is having a cautious optimism versus blind trust.

Write an explanatory/informative paragraph in which you define the two terms and highlight the differences. Based on what you learn which one is better for a leader to have? Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and concrete details. Use appropriate transitions. Use precise language.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 20



Key Paragraph, p. 264-265

“Does ma know you’re here?”

‘I left her a note.’

‘Then to hurt him’ I said, ‘Just like you did.’

‘Saw-Bone said you might be here and I had to come tell you we heard from Father! We can go back home and be a family again’” (p. 264-265).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Deza finds her brother and they are able to catch up and share. Jimmie tells her what he knows about father’s accident and she tells him that they have found him. She doesn’t necessarily agree with him but wants him to come home. When she talks to him she speaks to him using spite. In most of the reading she has shown much leadership and potential.

Write a paragraph in which you explain to Deza why she should not be spiteful toward her brother. Give her examples of other things she could say or do to prove her point while remaining diplomatic and a leader. Introduce your topic clearly previewing what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant facts and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and to clarify relationships among concepts. Use clear and precise language.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 21



Key Paragraph p. 276-277

"I said, 'Mrs. Jones, you like teasing so much you could be one of the Malones.' She said, 'Why, thank you, Miss Malone, it would be an honor to be in your family.' I hadn't meant it as a compliment" (p. 266-267).

Writing Prompt

Deza hadn't meant to compliment Mrs. Jones but it was taken as one. What do you think that Deza meant when she said that to Mrs. Jones?

Write a paragraph in which you explain/inform your reader how perspective can affect a conversation or a relationship. What do you think Deza meant when she said this? Introduce your topic to convey ideas and information. Develop the topic with relevant facts and details. Use appropriate transitions to clarify relationships. Use precise language and vocabulary to inform or explain about the topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Mighty Miss Malone, Day 22



Key Paragraph, p. 297

“He had heard that hope has wings
But never believed such lofty things.
It took time to set him straight,
To learn hope was an open gate.
Try as he might, he didn’t see
That hope lived in his family.
He had learned that hope has wings.
And now he’ll live by these joyous things” (p. 297).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Deza and her mother find Roscoe Malone. In his own way he is a leader and he has returned, although broken.

Write an explanatory/informative text in which you describe the poem he recites and share what you think his meaning is. Give information from the text and examples to support your thoughts. Introduce your topic. Give support and details. Use transitions to convey cohesion. Conclude with a statement that supports your introduction.