

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 1



Key Paragraph, p. 18

“A few years? I can’t spend a few years here! I’ll go crazy! I’ll be like her!” Shauzia pointed at the crazy women. A woman with no name, she had been found rocking and moaning on the streets of Peshawar. Aid workers had brought her to the Widows’ Compound” (p. 18).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia is frustrated with her life living at the Widows’ Compound. Pretend you are Shauzia. Write a journal entry explaining why you want to leave Widows’ Compound. **In an argumentative paragraph argue why you should leave the compound. Provide three reasons to support your answer.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 2



Key Paragraph, p. 27

“That was where she needed to be, in a field of purple flowers, where no one could bother her. She would sit there until the confusion left her head and the stink of the camp left her nostrils. When she had enough of that, she would go to Paris and sit at the top of the Eiffel Tower until her friend Parvana joined her there, the way they had promised each other. They would spend the rest of their days drinking tea and eating oranges and making fun of Mrs. Weera” (p. 27).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia finds comfort dreaming about her plan to meet her friend Parvana in the future. This dream gives her hope for her future and enables her to realize her current situation is only temporary. Do you believe positive thinking or dreaming about a better future helps people overcome difficult circumstances? **Write an argumentative paragraph that proves positive thinking helps people overcome difficult circumstances. Support your claim with three examples. These examples could be from the reading or from your life experience.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 32

“‘This is where I’m going,’ she said, more to herself than to Jasper. ‘And to get there, first I have to be here’” (p. 32).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia is working to pursue her goal of going to the sea. Reflect on one large goal you have for your life. What are the other smaller goals you need to first accomplish to eventually obtain the larger goal? Write a letter to Shauzia about your life goals. **In an argumentative paragraph convince Shauzia that you must first achieve the smaller goals in order to obtain your large goal. Explain how the smaller goals will help you reach your large goal.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 47

“‘What do I do with these?’ she asked Jasper, holding up her old torn sandals. She decided to leave them on the sidewalk. She put them down, but before she had taken a few steps, a young man swooped down and picked them up. Maybe she should have kept them after all” (p. 47).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia did not see any value in her old torn sandals but a young man on the street did. He immediately swooped up Shauzia’s abandoned sandals. Sometimes one person’s trash is another person’s treasure. Why do you think the young man took the sandals? Provide three reasons that explain why the sandals were still useful. **Write an argumentative paragraph to persuade Shauzia that she should keep the torn sandals.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 61-62

“But Shauzia was hungry, and she was tired of being bullied. She sprang up with out thinking and threw herself at the boy. They rolled in the trash, trying to hit each other. Jasper jumped around them, barking. The other children picked the spilled cracker bits off the ground and ate them” (p. 61-62).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia was so hungry she fought the street boy for scraps of food. In the end, other street children ate the food from the ground. Do you think Shauzia’s actions are an example of *Leadership requires Engagement*? Do you think her *community is better because she is part of it*? Why or why not? What could Shauzia have done instead that would have benefited everyone? **Write an argumentative letter to Shauzia that encourages her to demonstrate *leadership requires engagement*. Provide three reasons to support your argument.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 73

“Shauzia didn’t join in the scramble for the stolen junk, but she didn’t do anything to help the boy, either. She wasn’t afraid to fight Zahir, but the last thing she needed was someone depending on her, expecting things from her. She would never get to the sea that way” (p. 73).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia believes it is better to only look out for yourself and not work as a team. Reflect on why it is better to look out for yourself and why it is better to work in a team. Do you think it is better to work as a team or to work alone? **Write an argumentative paragraph supporting your position. Support your claim with three personal examples or three examples from the novel.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 84

“‘Once you’re in here, you’re in here forever.’ he replied. ‘I was only six years old when they locked me up. Look at me now- old enough to grow a beard soon.’ The other boys laughed” (p. 84).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia is now in jail. Pretend you are Shauzia. Write a journal entry explaining how you were arrested. **In an argumentative paragraph defend your innocence. Include three reasons that prove you are innocent. Finally describe how you feel during your first night sleeping in the jail cell.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 8



Key Paragraph, p. 105

"The garbage was full of perfectly good food. She rescued it, took it upstairs and hid it under her bed. She could never tell when she would be hungry again" (p. 105).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia rescued remaining food from the trash. What do you do with remaining left over food? Pretend you are Shauzia. **Write an argumentative paragraph to convince people not to throw away unspoiled left over food. Provide three reasons to support your argument. Include two ideas of what people should do with their left over food instead?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 9



Key Paragraph, p. 106

“‘Why are you doing this?’ Shauzia asked.

‘Tom’s salary goes a long way over here,’ Barbara told her. ‘We like to share what we have. Besides, us girls have to stick together!’ She gave Shauzia another hug, and this time, Shauzia hugged her back” (p. 106).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia does not understand why two strangers, Barbara and Tom, would help her. Pretend you are Barbara or Tom. Provide three reasons why you are caring for Shauzia. **In an argumentative paragraph encourage other wealthy families to help other children in need.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 10



Key Paragraph, p. 127

“‘Maybe I should say yes,’ she said to Jasper. ‘It would be a lie, but it would make her happy for a little while.’ Sometimes it was hard to know the right thing to do” (p. 127).

Writing Prompt

Shauzia told Farzana that they would go to the ocean together, even though Shauzia has no intention of taking Farzana to the ocean. Do you think it is okay to lie to someone so you don’t hurt his or her feelings? Or do you think it is better to tell the truth so they don’t get mad at you for lying? **Write an argumentative paragraph supporting or disproving Shauzia’s decision to tell Farzana a lie. Support your position with three examples.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 133

“He was bigger and stronger. He raised his arm and slammed his fist into Shauzia’s head. She dropped to the ground. Her head hit the dirt with a thud, and she watched the man run off with her flour” (p. 133).

Writing Prompt

After a chaotic catastrophe, there are many versions as to how the events unfolded. Write a memo to the police station explaining your version of how the riots started. **Write an argumentative paragraph to persuade the police of Shauzia’s version of the story. Provide three quotes from today’s reading to support your claim. Who was involved? What happened first, second, and third?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 140

“The nurse yanked herself free. ‘Do you know how many deaths we see here? How am I supposed to cry over all of them? All you do is lie there and complain. How dare you criticize me!’” (p. 140).

Writing Prompt

As Shauzia’s nurse, write a formal letter to Shauzia explaining her experience working at the clinic. **Write an argumentative paragraph to convince Shauzia that she cares for all of her patients. Explain that nurses need to separate their emotions from their work in order for them to continue to provide patients with life-saving medical support. Provide three reasons why the nurses cannot cry after each patient dies.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 143

“‘I am just waiting,’ the old man replied. ‘It is what I do. I don’t remember what I am waiting for, but still I wait. One day, you will wait like I do.’

‘Never!’ Shuazia exclaimed” (p. 143).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph about what happened on September 11, 2001. Using the background information provided at the beginning of today’s lesson plan, review the reasons why Americans sent military forces into Afghanistan?

Writing prompt one: As the president of the United States write an argumentative speech that defends your decision to send troops to Afghanistan. Provide three reasons to support your decision.

Writing prompt two: As Mrs. Weera, write an argumentative letter to convince the president of the United States to not send American troops to Afghanistan. Provide three alternative ideas to help the Afghanistan government disband the Taliban.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Mud City, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 158

“She had almost twenty years before she had to meet her friend Parvana at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. She’d get there. But first she had a little job to do (p. 158).

Writing Prompt

As Shauzia, write a journal entry explaining the recent events. **Write an argumentative paragraph defending your decision to go with Mrs. Weera. Provide three reasons that support your decision to work with Mrs. Weera. Explain your new mission and why it is important for the future of Afghanistan.**