

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 1



Key Paragraph, p. 5

“My mother insisted that I write a B & B letter to my grandparents. I told her that I could not write a B & B letter, and she asked me why, I told her that I did not know what a B & B letter was. She explained—not too patiently—that a B & B letter is a bread and butter letter you write to people to thank them for having you as their houseguests” (p. 5).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Noah is asked to write a B & B letter. **Write an informative/explanatory paragraph in which you share the proper format of a B & B letter and the reasons behind writing a B & B letter.**

Introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow; organize your ideas clearly. Develop a topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language. Provide a concluding statement that supports the information presented and why it is important.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 2



Key Paragraph, p. 10

“‘When I told Tillie that six steps seems a lot to have to do before you begin,’ she said, ‘You must think of those six steps not as preparation for the beginning, but as the beginning itself’” (p. 10).

Writing Prompt

Tillie told Noah about the importance of the six steps for filling a calligraphy pen when she said, “You must think of those six steps not as preparation for the beginning, but as the beginning itself.” Think of a time or situation that you had to prepare to do something before you actually got to start (packing for a trip, preparing to move or go to a new school, preparing for a job interview).

Write a one-paragraph explanatory/informative paragraph in which you introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow. Organize your ideas, concepts, and information. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 22

“‘Oh’, she said, ‘then we are still safe, Dr. Rohmer. You can tell the taxpayers that the Epiphany Middle School team has one Jew, one half-Jew, one WASP, and one Indian’” (p. 22).

Writing Prompt

Mrs. Olinski respond to Dr. Rohmer by telling him she does have a divers group of students on her team. In what ways can diversity be measured? Do you think that color of skin is the only way of making that distinction?

Write a one-paragraph informative/explanatory in which you explain diversity and how diversity can be categorized in a number of ways. Introduce your topic clearly. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language. Conclude with a statement that follows from and supports your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 31

“He introduced himself and asked her if she would like to take a walk with him. She replied by inviting him to join him on her turtle walk. He accepted, not even knowing where or what it was. And they have been doing it ever since” (p. 31).

Writing Prompt

Grandpa Izzy and Margaret met doing turtle walks. The turtles they were walking and finding are on the endangered species list.

Write an informative/explanatory essay paragraph about an endangered or threatened animal that you know of and state at least three reasons you think that animal is important to protect. Introduce your topic clearly. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Provide a conclusion that supports the information presented and supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 38

“‘We never carry them to the water,’ Margaret explained. ‘They must walk across their native sand. We think that something registers in their brains that kicks in twenty-five years later because they return to the beach where they were born to lay their eggs’” (p. 38).

Writing Prompt

Think about animals (turtles, butterflies, chickens) and people need to “walk across their native sand” on their own. Can you think of times in your life that having too much assistance was equally as harmful as having too little?

Write a one paragraph informative explanatory paragraph in which you inform your reader how struggles are needed for us to learn lessons and to have information stick.

Introduce your topic clearly. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language. Establish and maintain formal style. Conclude with a statement that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 45

“No one seemed to think that it would matter to me where I lived. No one seemed to think it would matter to me whether I spent my life in New York or Florida, or commuting between the two” (p. 45).

Writing Prompt

Nadia is at the mercy of her parents’ and her grandparents’ decisions. Think of a time you were placed at the mercy of others and the decisions they made that affected you. How did that make you feel? What factors would have made you feel more empowered? Do parents have the obligations to tell their children everything? What could Nadia have done to be more involved in the decision making process (relating to their move and the divorce)?

Make a list of three things that Nadia could have done to participate more in the decisions that were being made surrounding their move and the pending divorce.

Choose one of them and write an informative/explanatory paragraph in which you share with your readers a step Nadia could have made to feel more empowered relating to decisions that affected her. Introduce your topic. Develop a topic with relevant facts and ideas. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use domain specific language. Conclude with a statement that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 55

"I paused in my narrative. I focused hard on Dad, and he focused hard on me. 'Are you with me?' I asked. My father nodded, so I continued. 'Here is the tragic part. Even if the tide does wash them back into the water, they will not be able to get back home because once the swimming frenzy is turned off, it is turned off forever. Turtles do not have an emergency power pack or a safety switch to turn it on. So, they are, once again at the water's edge, but this time they are without the mechanism for swimming east. That is why they will be lost at sea. They will want to graze. They will have an appetite, but they will not be where they can satisfy it, and they will not know how to get there because they cannot turn back their internal clock. They will not find home. They will not find food. They will starve and grow weak and be eaten'" (p. 55).

Writing Prompt

Think about a time where there was a crisis and a response needed to be made to save—something or someone (real or imagined).

Write an informative paragraph detailing the response. What did you or someone you know, do to respond to the need?

Introduce your topic clearly. Develop the topic with relevant facts and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesions and clarify relationships. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 8



Key Paragraph, pg. 60

“The place names are Seneca Falls, Homer, Rochester, and Auburn,’ Ethan rang in as the last syllable sounded. Yes. Ethan Potter would know all four parts. Yes, yes, yes, and yes” (p. 60).

Writing Prompt

Ethan recalls how his family has been influential in his town. Write an informative/explanatory paragraph on how your family’s history has impacted your life today by describing one important person in your family that showed responsibility through actions taken that made a positive difference in your family or community.

Introduce a 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. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 9



Key Paragraph, p. 67

“‘Yes,’ Julian smiled, ‘A chef. He was a chef on board the *Skylark* the cruise ship. Father decided that we needed to settle down. He has always wanted to own an inn, so he purchased Sillington House. That is what we call it” (p. 67).

Writing Prompt

Julian and his father are on a new adventure. Used to living on cruise ships in international waters Julian is at a new school in a new town. Think about a time you had to experience something for the first time.

Write an explanatory paragraph in which you share your experience and the steps you took to prepare for something new.

Introduce a 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. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 10



Key Paragraph, p. 73

“Between the a and ass, he had squeezed a p. And in the space beneath that, he had changed the message. His book bag no read: I am a passenger on Spaceship Earth” (p. 73).

Writing Prompt

Julian made a very distinct choice to change the message he received. He could have chosen to fight back, but he chose to change the message and continue on. Think of a time that you had to make a conscious choice to act and react with respect and dignity.

In a paragraph explain the situation and what happened. Introduce your topic clearly; preview what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. Establish and maintain formal style. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 85

“I think we must join our other guests,’ He said, ‘Please,’ he said. I crossed in front of him, and as I did so, I felt that I was crossing from stage right to stage left and wearing a tuxedo, and I did not mind that feeling at all” (p. 85).

Writing Prompt

Ethan the others have been invited into a new experience and they all decided to embrace their new friend and their new experience. Imagine you are having a party and invite your friends.

Write an explanatory paragraph—what kind of party you would have, and how you would invite them over to your home. Include in your paragraph what you would serve them to eat, and what you would do to help build positive relationships between your new friends?

Introduce your topic clearly, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Use precise language. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the information presented.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 96

"Mrs. Olinski remembered the day that the rude applause had distracted a performance. Her fourth choice had been causing her problems, but it had been on the very day when the rude applause interrupted a play that she made the fourth and final choice for her team" (p. 96).

Writing Prompt

Making choices can be difficult, as it was for Mrs. Olinski.

Write an informative/explanatory paragraph in which you detail the steps you use in making responsible choices in your life. How did you learn to make correct choices in your life? How does making responsible choices require proper actions to back up those choices? Can you make good choices for yourself and others without being a leader?

Introduce the topic, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts. Use appropriate transitions. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the information presented.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 104

"Ginger was in every way superior to every other dog there. Even her mixed-breed looks better suited the part than Arnold's purebred sleekness. Ginger was first rate. Ginger had star quality. Ginger got the part" (p. 104).

Writing Prompt

Do you think the auditions for the part of Sandy were done fairly? Have you ever experienced someone being chosen for a part or activity when they weren't the best candidate?

Write an explanatory paragraph in which you describe your feelings about someone else being chosen for an activity rather than you. Explain the process. How fair did the process seem to you? How did The Souls prepare Ginger for the try out in the play, and is this a helpful idea for your life?

Introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts and details. Use precise language and appropriate transitions. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 112

“There they were, waiting on the prop table. There they were, awaiting my decision” (p. 112).

Writing Prompt

In today’s reading Julian had a decision to make. He could say and do nothing, allowing Arnold to eat the treats and getting sick. Ginger would get to perform and Ham would hurt his friend. OR he could say/do something to assist both dogs. He made his choice.

Write an explanatory paragraph, share a time in your life that you knew about something bad that would happen to someone if you said or did nothing. How did you make the right decision to prevent something bad from happening because you knew it would be wrong not to take the right action to prevent wrong from happening? How does this action enable/support you being a leader?

Introduce your topic clearly, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Use precise language. Establish and maintain formal style. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the information and explanation presented.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 15



Key Paragraph, p. 118

“Your son has something growing out of his head,’ I said as I pulled two bacon-shaped doggie treats from his ears. ‘I think these belong to you.’ I said as one by one I dropped the rest of the drugged biscuits on his lap. I turned and walked away” (p. 118).

Writing Prompt

Making the right decision to do the right action takes courage and it means you have to be a leader. What steps go into making good choices?

Write a paragraph where you explain about a time when you had the courage to make the right decision to take the right action. **Introduce your topic clearly, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and concrete details. Use precise language to inform about and explain the topic. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the introduction.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 16



Key Paragraph, p. 125

“There were talking among themselves and drinking tea. They did not interrupt one another, Mrs. Olinski thought, how unusual, there were nods and smiles and obvious pleasure in one another’s company. Mrs. Olinski thought, how unusual to find four 6th graders who listened to one another sympathetically, unselfishly. How curious. How courteous. When people come to tea they are courteous” (p. 125).

Writing Prompt

Mrs. Olinski is convinced that the demise of civilization started when people stopped having 4:00 tea. How do you think tea or the process of tea can help someone pause and begin to act more courteous?

Write an informative/explanatory paragraph in which you share how tea or a process like tea can help people slow down. Introduce your topic clearly, previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships. Use precise language and domain specific vocabulary. Conclude with a statement that follows from and supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 17



Key Paragraph, p. 133

“With the success of her team, Mrs. Olinski was asked more and more often how she chose them, and she continued to give several good answers, varying them as the need arose. They worked well together. They were willing to take time to drill. They understood the rules. All of these answers were true, but not the whole truth. The whole truth was that Mrs. Olinski did not yet know the whole truth” (p. 133).

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Mrs. Olinski and you need to share with the reader how you chose your team.

Write an informative/explanatory paragraph explaining how and why you chose the team you chose for the competition. Introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow, Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 18



Key Paragraph, p. 140

“There were two other tables where paying guests were already seated. They smiled and nodded at her in the approving way people do when they see people in wheelchairs” (p. 140).

Writing Prompt

Think about Mrs. Olinski and how self-conscious she feels at being in a wheel chair and teaching. How can we responsibly help disabled or handicapped people feel accepted and cared about all the time?

Write an explanatory paragraph in which you share with your reader how to teach others to respectfully and responsibly help others with a disability without making them feel pity. Introduce your topic, previewing what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details. Use appropriate transitions. Use precise language. Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the information presented.

You might want to review the material below that summarizes etiquette when interacting with those with disabilities.

<http://ucp.org/resources/disability-etiquette/>

http://www.guidedogs.com/site/PageServer?pagename=resources_access

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 19



Key Paragraph, pg. 145

"It was dark when Mrs. Olinski left Sillington House, and she was glad. The dark wrapped the afternoon around her and kept it close. Sillington House was its own place" (p. 145).

Writing Prompt

Mrs. Olinski has found peace at the Sillington house and the Souls have found their own place. Think about a place or time you knew you belonged. **Write an explanatory paragraph in which you share with your reader the ideas and concepts that contributed to that feeling. Introduce your topic. Develop your topic with relevant details, facts, and definitions. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Provide a conclusion that follows from and supports the information presented.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Day 20



Key Paragraph, p. 160

“And that was when she knew that they knew that she knew” (p. 160).

Writing Prompt

Mrs. Olinski wants to know if the students chose her or if she chose the students. Think back to the beginning of the novel when Julian suggested they have a project. Think about how kindness has changed all of their courses.

Do you think the Souls chose Mrs. Olinski or that she chose the Souls? **Write a paragraph in which you explain your choice. Introduce your topic previewing what is to follow. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions and details. Use appropriate transitions. Use precise language. Provide a concluding statement in which you support your introduction.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The View from Saturday, Final Writing Product



Final Writing Product

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

In the novel *The View From Saturday*

Some of the major themes of *The View From Saturday* can be described as:

- Kindness—Can you be kind if you have never been shown kindness?
- Diversity—should you be concerned with diversity because it is a “hot topic” issue or because you are concerned with helping move a group forward?
- Journey—taking the journey, learning, and living are more important than the destination, is there truth in this statement?

Write a 5-paragraph **informative/explanatory essay** in which you explore one of the **major themes** of the novel. **Introduce the theme** and how it affects the characters and the ideas surrounding the novel. **Organize your ideas**, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition and classification. **Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotes or other examples**. Use appropriate **transitions** to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. **Use precise language and vocabulary** to inform about or explain the topic. Maintain formal style. Provide a concluding **statement** or section that follows from and supports the information presented.

Utilize your Open Mind Portraits to assist in your writing and the on-going classroom projects.