

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 1



Key Passage, p. 17

"A breeze ruffled the neat hedges of Privet Drive, which lay silent and tidy under the inky sky, the very last place you would expect astonishing things to happen. Harry Potter rolled over inside his blankets without waking up. One small hand closed on the letter beside him and he slept on, not knowing he was special, not knowing he was famous, not knowing he would be woken in a few hours' time by Mrs. Dursley's scream as she opened the front door to put out the milk bottles, nor that he would spend the next few weeks being prodded and pinched by his cousin Dudley....He couldn't know that at this very moment, people meeting in secret all over the country were holding up their glasses and saying in hushed voices: 'To Harry Potter – the boy who lived!'" (p. 17).

Writing Prompt

In today's reading, Harry Potter has been dropped off to grow up on Privet Drive in the Dursley household. We read that those who dropped him off had some apprehension about how he would fit into the Dursley household, and we get a hint at the end of the chapter that he won't be staying there forever.

Have you ever felt like you did not belong in your environment? How did that make you feel? Why did you feel that way? **Using your own experiences, write about a time or place where you felt you did not belong. Did it take courage to be there? Describe how you felt different in this environment and why.**

- Think about your first day of school, starting at a new school, or entering a new classroom.
- Other situations might be: beginning a new job, living in a new home or living situation such as a group home, being away at a camp, in juvenile hall, or a ranch.
- Have you ever had to take a class or sport that you knew nothing about? Did you feel like you were taking a risk for a reason? Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and be sure to create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- Have you ever had to move or visit a new country or state that is different from your own community?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 2



Key Passage, p. 24

"The problem was, strange things often happened around Harry and it was just no good telling the Dursleys he didn't make them happen" (p. 24).

Writing Prompt

"My Heroic Journey"

Create a one-page paper showing ways you are like a hero. **Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description and reflection. Outline your heroic journey in the ordinary world. Use the following questions to give you ideas for your writing:**

- Where would you like to be, what would you like to achieve, or what would you like your life to be like?
- What is your ordinary life like now?
- Think about something you want or need in life that would make you happy.
- What obstacles or barriers do you face in your life that stop you from doing what you want, hold you back, or stop you from being happy? Why?
- What do you most want to achieve in your life?
- Would you like to demonstrate courage in your life? How so?
- What will be the biggest steps you will have to take and the biggest obstacles you will have to overcome to achieve what you most want?
- What events, experiences, and characters help shape your journey?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 3



Key Passage, p. 34

"Harry picked it up and stared at it, his heart twanging like a giant elastic band. No one, ever, in his whole life, had written to him. Who would? He had no friends, no other relatives – he didn't belong to the library, so he'd never even got rude notes asking for books back. Yet here it was, a letter, addressed so plainly there could be no mistake" (p. 34).

Writing Prompt

"My Call to Adventure"

In great heroic stories, the call to adventure comes, often when the future hero least expects it, while the hero is bored in his daily world. Often the one who brings the call to adventure is a herald. In mythic stories, the herald might issue a challenge to the future hero or be a signal that a significant change is about to occur. In the middle of boring daily life, the soon-to-be hero starts to notice that things are changing and the call to adventure comes in the form of a challenge to do something.

We all get calls to adventure in our daily lives, and the heralds are sometimes circumstances, sometimes people. The circumstances can be problems, even crises, or just opportunities and possibilities. The people acting as heralds sometimes bring cries for help, but more often invite us to join them in something they are doing.

Write a narrative paragraph about a call to adventure in your life. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent story. In your page of writing, answer the following questions:

- What was your ordinary life like at this time?
- When and where did it take place?
- Who or what was the herald?
- How did you respond?
- Did you demonstrate courage in your response?
- Is it courageous to try something new?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 4



Key Passage, p. 58

“‘Hagrid,’ he said quietly, ‘I think you must have made a mistake. I don’t think I can be a wizard.’

To his surprise, Hagrid chuckled.

‘Not a wizard, eh? Never made things happen when you was scared or angry?’

Harry looked into the fire, Now he came to think about it... every odd thing that had ever made his aunt and uncle furious with him had happened when he, Harry, had been upset or angry...chased by Dudley’s gang, he had somehow found himself out of their reach...dreading going to school with that ridiculous haircut, he’d managed to make it grow back... and the very last time Dudley hit him, hadn’t he got his revenge, without even realizing he was doing it? Hadn’t he set a boa constrictor on him?

Harry looked back at Hagrid, smiling and saw that Hagrid was positively beaming at him.

‘See?’ said Hagrid. ‘Harry Potter, not a wizard — you wait, you’ll be right famous at Hogwarts’” (p. 58).

Writing Prompt

“More Than I Thought”

Mythology is full of stories where the hero finds out that he or she is much more talented, much braver, much more capable than he or she ever dreamed. King Arthur finds out he was a king all along. Harry Potter finds out he is really a wizard. Dorothy finds out she always had the power to go home. Cinderella finds out that she is the one.

Write one narrative paragraph describing a moment in your life when you realized that you could do much more than you ever thought, or that you could be much more than you ever thought, or go much further than you ever thought. Write out this experience using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well structured event sequences.

This can happen when you learn to read or use a computer and a whole world of information is now open to you. Or when you realize you can get a job you want, or get into a training program you want, or go to a college you want. Or learn to drive and find out you can go places you never could before. Or stop a habit, addiction, or behavior that is getting in your way. Or learn to play an instrument, swim, play a sport or game, or do anything that is important to you.

In your paragraph:

- Explain what changed in your life.
- Explain how you thought about what was possible before this change.
- Explain how you thought about what was possible after this change.
- Explain in what way this change required courage.

- Explain the progression of your realization. Were there small events that led you to feel this way? If so, describe them chronologically in a smooth fashion.
- Courage requires reason, not thrill. Did you have a reason for the change?
- What made the difference?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 5



Key Passage, p. 71

“Three up...two across...” he muttered. ‘Right, stand back, Harry.’

He tapped the wall three times with the point of his umbrella.

The brick he had touched quivered—it wriggled—in the middle, a small hole appeared—it grew wider and wider—a second later they were facing an archway large enough even for Hagrid, an archway onto a cobbled street that twisted and turned out of sight.

‘Welcome,’ said Hagrid, to ‘Diagon Alley.’

He grinned at Harry’s amazement. They stepped through the archway. Harry looked quickly over his shoulder and saw the archway shrink instantly back into solid wall.

The sun shone brightly on a stack of cauldrons outside the nearest shop. Cauldrons—All Sizes—Copper, Brass, Pewter, Silver—Self-Stirring—Collapsible, said a sign hanging over them.

‘Yeah you’ll be needin’ one,’ said Hagrid, “but we gotta get yer money first” (p. 71).

Writing Prompt

A Mentor on Your Heroic Journey

In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, we learn how Hagrid, Albus Dumbledore, and others have been mentors for Harry by teaching, guiding, training, and protecting him in the story. For example, Hagrid teaches Harry about the wizarding world, guides him through decisions he must make, trains him in how to use a wand, and protects him from injury on several occasions.

Today, write about someone who has been an important mentor in your life—someone who has taught, guided, trained, protected you, or any combination of these things. In your paragraph, identify who this mentor is. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the person you are describing.

Explain how you are different as a result of knowing this person. Explain at least 3 ways this person has mentored you. Are they someone you look up to? Do the exemplify the theme “Courage Requires Fortitude”? Give at least one concrete example – like a little story – to back up how this person has mentored you.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 6



Key Passage, p. 86

“Everyone thinks I’m special,’ he said at last. ‘All those people in the Leaky Cauldron, Professor Quirrell, Mr. Ollivander...but I don’t know anything about magic at all. How can they expect great things? I’m famous and I can’t even remember what I’m famous for. I don’t know what happened when Voldemort, sorry—I mean, the night my parents died’” (p. 86).

Writing Prompt

Crossing the Threshold

Today’s reading talks about crossing the threshold into the world of adventure. This is the act of courage that propels us fully into our story. It is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Often some event forces us to act; and when we act, there may be powerful people and forces blocking our way.

Write a page about a time when you finally made up your mind to do something. This should be something that took courage, was difficult for you, that you had been putting off, that you weren’t looking forward to, that you were avoiding, or you were dreading having to do.

When you started on your way to do it (crossed the threshold), did anyone or anything get in your way? Did any thoughts or doubts get in your way? Did you find it difficult to actually carry out your plans? What made you keep going? Be sure to describe what you made up your mind to do and what this would require of you (the threshold you would have to cross). Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what you experienced and resolved over the course of your story.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 7



Key Passage, p. 100

"Harry didn't think there was anything wrong with not being able to afford an owl. After all, he'd never had any money in his life until a month ago, and he told Ron so, all about having to wear Dudley's old clothes and never getting proper birthday presents. This seemed to cheer Ron up" (p. 100).

Writing Prompt

An Ally on Your Adventure

As Harry is looking for the platform in the train station, he meets the Weasleys. and befriends Ron. Courage leads us to consider a heroic journey; sometimes we meet friends at just the right time. In some cases, it can be when we are beginning the same adventure in life, such as the first day of school, the beginning of a program, or the start of a season or experience. Ron and Harry became friends partly due to timing but also because of their demeanor and attitude.

Write a narrative about a time when you met someone just as you were about to both begin a similar experience. This should be someone who became a friend. How were you alike and not alike? What things were you able to do together that you could not have accomplished separately? How did you make each other's adventure or experience better or worse? Make sure your writing uses effective technique, well chosen details, and well structured event sequences.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 8



Key Passage, p. 108

"He turned back to Harry. 'You'll soon find out some wizarding families are much better than others, Potter. You don't want to go making friends with the wrong sort. I can help you there.'

'I think I can tell who the wrong sort are for myself, thanks,' he said coolly" (p. 108).

Writing Prompt

Someone Not Like Me

Harry quickly identifies that not only does he not like Draco Malfoy, he does not want to be like Draco Malfoy – he does not want to be the sort of person that Malfoy is. He is completely different and wishes to remain completely different.

Draw evidence from the text showing characteristics of characters that Harry might lean toward. Then, make a list contrasting characteristics of characters that Harry should not emulate.

Write a paragraph about someone in your life from whom you are completely different. This should be someone you do not want to be like, or to be same sort of person as. This may be a person you know, a historical figure, a public figure, or just someone who is completely different from you. Do they lack courage? If so, give an example. Do they see a journey as something larger than themselves?

You don't have to necessarily dislike this person. Be sure to describe what this person is like, how this person is like and unlike you, what this person does that is completely unacceptable to you, and concrete examples of how this person is different from you.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 9



Key Passage, p. 121

"The last thing Harry saw before the hat dropped over his eyes was the hall full of people craning to get a good look at him. Next second he was looking at the black inside the hat. He waited.

'Hmm,' said a small voice in his ear. 'Difficult. Very difficult. Plenty of courage, I see. Not a bad mind either. There's talent, oh my goodness, yes—and a nice thirst to prove yourself, now that's interesting... So where shall I put you?'

Harry gripped the edges of the stool and thought, *Not Slytherin, not Slytherin*" (p. 121).

Writing Prompt

A Personal Test

One of the crucial stages of any heroic journey is the "Tests, Allies, and Enemies" stage. It is here that the hero finds himself in the presence of all the other major characters in the story. Here, in front of his enemies and his potential allies, the hero is tested. In today's reading, Harry manages to influence the Sorting Hat. He avoids a connection with Slytherin (the enemy), and forges an alliance with the house of Gryffindor.

Write about a time in your life when you had to choose sides. Describe the situation and the elements involved. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, and introducing characters. Make sure your writing shows a smooth progression of experiences or events.

What influenced your decision? What happened as a result? Did your decision demonstrate courage? Did you moderate your impulses and emotions? Why or why not? In the end, did you choose the right side? If you had a chance to do it over, would you choose differently?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 10



Key Passage, p. 131-132

"There were a hundred and forty-two staircases at Hogwarts: wide sweeping ones; narrow, rickety ones, some that led somewhere differently on a Friday, some with a vanishing step halfway up that you had to remember to jump. Then there were doors that wouldn't open unless you asked politely, or tickled them in exactly the right place, and doors that weren't really doors at all, but solid walls just pretending. It was also very hard to remember where anything was, because it all seemed to move around a lot. The people in the portraits kept going to visit one another and Harry was sure the coats of armor could walk.

The ghosts didn't help, either" (p. 131-132).

Writing Prompt

Think back to your first day of school. You may choose this school or any other you have attended.

In a detailed narrative paragraph, describe that day in full. Explain your expectations and your initial fears. Then explain what it turned out to really be like. Describe your arrival to school and your navigation of the school campus. Who did you meet? How did you make friends? What turned out to be your biggest challenges? Use well-chosen details and event sequences to describe the experience. You can also use pacing, dialogue and reflection.

Which, if any, of your initial fears came true? Did your first day require courage? What would you tell someone who was about to have their first day?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 11



Key Passage, p. 150

“Harry caught sight of Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle’s triumphant faces as he left, walking numbly in Professor McGonagall’s wake as she strode toward the castle. He was going to be expelled, he just knew it. He wanted to say something to defend himself, but there seemed to be something wrong with his voice. Professor McGonagall was sweeping along without even looking at him; he had to jog to keep up. Now he’d done it. He hadn’t even lasted two weeks. He’d be packing his bags in ten minutes. What would the Dursleys say when he turned up on the doorstep?” (p. 150).

Writing Prompt

Allies on Your Heroic Journey

In today’s reading, Harry sticks up for a friend who he doesn’t think is being treated rightly.

two pages describing a time when you stood up for a friend, or when a friend stood up for you. Make sure to detail experiences, events, and/or characters involved with the incident. Was it difficult? What happened? Did your actions require courage? Why did people make the choices they made in this situation? Do you think what anyone did was heroic? Do you think it was wise?

You will probably have very different ideas about the person who had to be stood up to, the person victimized, and the person who stood up. Be sure to talk write about the event from differing viewpoints and include well-chosen details.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 12



Key Passage, p. 162

"I hope you are pleased with yourselves. We could all have been killed—or worse, expelled. Now, if you don't mind, I'm going to bed" (p. 162).

Writing Prompt

Courage requires a risk for a reason. Harry, Ron and Hermione were wandering the corridors of Hogwarts at night when they are not supposed to. What was their reason? Were they prepared for the three-headed dog with yellow fangs and 6 eyes staring at them?

Write a page of narrative writing about a situation where you ran into something you never expected—something, someone, or some situation you never thought could occur or were totally unprepared for. Were you in a dangerous situation you did not expect at all? What happened? How did you feel? What did you do? Did you show courage? What do you think about it now?

When writing, use a variety of techniques to sequence events when you tell your story, thus building on it as a whole. Also, be sure to share well-chosen details and real experiences.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 13



Key Passage, p. 179

“But from that moment on, Hermione Granger became their friend. There are some things you can’t share without ending up liking each other, and knocking out a twelve-foot mountain troll is one of them” (p. 179).

Writing Prompt

A Task in Your Heroic Journey

Have you ever faced a troll in your own life? Were you able to battle it on your own or did you require help? Or have you seen this happen to someone else in their life?

Write a narrative about a time when you heroically overcame a troll in their life: something big and ugly that could have overcome them. How did you do it? Did you show courage? Do you wish you had shown more? When writing, use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to show the experience. Be sure to include details about the setting as well.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 14



Key Passage, p. 191

"Hermione had fought her way across to the stand where Snape stood, and was now racing along the row behind him; she didn't even stop to say sorry as she knocked Professor Quirrell into the row in front. Reaching Snape, she crouched down, pulled out her wand, and whispered a few, well-chosen words. Bright blue flames shot from her wand onto the hem of Snape's robes" (p. 191).

Writing Prompt

Another Task in Your Heroic Journey

Harry is doing his best to play Seeker and win the Quidditch match. But his broomstick keeps going off course. Something appears to be interfering with his ability to play this game successfully. Harry might have explained this in many different ways: this was not his day, the winds were wrong, the broomstick wasn't working. Was he able to moderate his impulses and emotions to get through the problem and remain calm? Did he exemplify courage in this scene?

In a narrative paragraph, write about a situation in your life where you knew it might not be possible to succeed/win, no matter how hard you tried. How did you feel about it? How did you keep yourself motivated to keep trying? What ended up happening? What advice would you give to someone in a similar situation? End the paragraph with a conclusion about what you experienced and what was resolved over the course of your story.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 15



Key Passage, p. 213

Dumbledore explains the Mirror of Erised:

"It shows us nothing more or less than the deepest, most desperate desire of our hearts. You, who have never known your family, see them standing around you. Ronald Weasley, who was always overshadowed by his brothers, sees himself standing alone, the best of all of them. However, this mirror will give us neither knowledge nor truth. Men have wasted away before it, entranced by what they have seen, or been driven mad, not knowing if what it shows is real or even possible" (p. 213).

Writing Prompt

To Harry, the Mirror of Erised showed his family. To Ron, it showed him as head boy and a Quidditch star. What would it show to you?

Write a narrative paper describing what it will take for Ron and Harry to leave the mirror alone. Will it take courage to live life instead of staying in the room, staring into what they wish would happen?

Use the Internet to look up examples of times screens distracted viewers from real life. Can fantasies be dangerous? Have people gotten hurt while distracted by their devices?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 16



Key Passage, p. 227

“So we were right, it *is* the Sorcerer’s Stone, and Snape’s trying to force Quirrell to help him get it. He asked if he knew how to get past Fluffy—and he said something about Quirrell’s ‘hocus-pocus’ – I reckon there are other things guarding the stone apart from Fluffy, loads of enchantments, probably, and Quirrell would have done some anti-Dark Arts spell that Snape needs to break through” (p. 227).

Writing Prompt

Write a narrative about a real or imagined time in your life when you were falsely accused of something you did not do. Explain the situation in detail using well-organized event sequences. Then reflect. What did this situation teach you about how to treat others?

After writing your narrative, work with your classmates to find a narrative in literature that has similar themes. What did the characters in that story do? Did yours act the same way? What can you learn by comparing the two?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 17



Key Paragraph, p. 237

"Dear Ron,

How are you? Thanks for the letter—I'd be glad to take the Norwegian Ridgeback, but it won't be easy getting him here. I think the best thing will be to send him over with some friends of mine who are coming to visit me next week. Trouble is, they mustn't be seen carrying an illegal dragon.

Could you get the Ridgeback up to the tallest tower at midnight on Saturday? They can meet you there and take him away while it's still dark.

Send me an answer as soon as possible.

Love,

Charlie" (p. 237).

Writing Prompt

A Risk on Your Heroic Journey

Write about a time when you risked something important to help a friend. Explain the situation. Discuss your dilemma and describe the thought process you went through in making your decision to be of service. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem and establishing your point of view. What did you stand to lose? How did things work out in the end? How did this affect your relationship? Use event sequences and well-chosen details to show if it had an effect on future relationships.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 18



Key Passage, p. 251-252

"Hagrid seized Harry and Hermione and hoisted them off the path behind a towering oak. He pulled out an arrow and fitted it into his crossbow, raising it, ready to fire. The three of them listened. Something was slithering over dead leaves nearby: it sounded like a cloak trailing along the ground. Hagrid was squinting up the dark path, but after a few seconds, the sound faded away" (p. 251-252).

Writing Prompt

Approaching Your Innermost Cave

Today, as Harry travels further along on his hero's journey, he comes face to face with his biggest fear.

Discuss a time when you faced a large fear. Explain the situation and the setting. Then describe the outcome. **Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to tell your story. Did things happen the way you imagined they might? Did you react in a way that made you proud? Or, did you end up wishing you had reacted differently? Did facing your fear require a special kind of courage? What did you learn from this incident? Will you react similarly or differently the next time?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 19



Key Passage, p. 272

“Don’t you call me an idiot!” said Neville. ‘I don’t think you should be breaking any more rules! And you were the one who told me to stand up to people!’” (p. 272).

Writing Prompt

Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Even though Harry, Ron, and Hermione are probably Neville’s closest friends, he finds the courage to stand up to them when he believes he is right. He encourages them to follow the rules because breaking them will hurt all of the Gryffindors.

Write about a time when you tried to stop a friend (or, when a friend tried to stop you) from making a bad decision. Explain the situation using specific details. What decision was ultimately made, and what were the consequences? Was your friend (or were you) grateful for the advice, or did it hurt your friendship? When writing, use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 20



Key Passage, p. 283-284

"He stepped forward, and the white queen pounced. She struck Ron hard across the head with her stone arm, and he crashed to the floor – Hermione screamed but stayed on her square—the white queen dragged Ron to one side. He looked as if he'd been knocked out.

The white king took off his crown and threw it at Harry's feet. They had won. The chessmen parted and bowed, leaving the door ahead clear. With one last desperate look back Ron, Harry and Hermione charged through the door and up the next passageway" (p. 283-4).

Writing Prompt

Your Ordeal

In this chapter, our hero enters the ordeal—he is on the final stretch to confronting evil. **Write about a time when you were in the final stretch of completing something difficult. Did it require courage? Did you do it on your own or with the help of friends? Explain the situation.**

Provide well-chosen details and descriptions that that make your readers root for your success. Use precise words and phrases and sensory language to create a strong picture of your experience.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 21



Key Passage, p. 306

“First - to Mr. Ronald Weasley...’

Ron went purple in the face; he looked like a radish with a bad sunburn.
‘...for the best played game of chess Hogwarts has seen in many years, I award Gryffindor house fifty points.’

Gryffindor cheers nearly raised the bewitched ceiling; the stars overhead seemed to quiver. Percy could be heard telling the other prefects, ‘My brother, you know! My youngest brother! Got past McGonagall’s chess set!’

‘Second - to Miss Hermione Granger... for the use of cool logic in the face of fire, I award Gryffindor House fifty points.’

Hermione buried her face in her arms; Harry strongly suspected she had burst into tears. Gryffindors up and down the table were beside themselves – they were a hundred points up.

‘Third – to Mr. Harry Potter...’ said Dumbledore. The room went deadly quiet.
‘...for pure nerve and outstanding courage, I award Gryffindor house sixty points.’

The din was deafening. Those who could add up while yelling themselves hoarse knew that Gryffindor now had four hundred and seventy-two points – exactly the same as Slytherin. They had tied for the house cup – if only Dumbledore had given Harry just one more point.

Dumbledore raised his hand. The room gradually fell silent.

‘There are all kinds of courage,’ said Dumbledore, smiling. ‘It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends. I therefore award ten points to Mr. Neville Longbottom’” (p. 306).

Writing Prompt

Your Greatest Triumph

Write a paragraph about your greatest triumph in life so far. Describe the triumph and the effort it took to get there. Use details and well structured event sequences. Were the rewards internal or external - were you the only one that celebrated your success, or did others participate in the ceremony as well? What did you learn about yourself from this triumph? How did it change your life and the way you view life? End your paragraph with a conclusion about what was experienced and resolved.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Day 22



Final Writing Product

Write an autobiographical narrative or story, following the formula of a heroic journey. It should contain a theme of courage.

In reading *Harry Potter*, you have followed Harry and his peers on an adventurous heroic journey. They take calculated risks and succeed by moderating their impulses and emotions and placing the needs of others in front of their own. In each of your daily writing tasks, you have written about your own heroic journey.

To complete your essay, follow these steps:

1. Re-read all of your journal entries. Choose 7 that go together to tell a story of your heroic journey. Sort them out and put them in chronological order. These will serve as the body of your rough draft.
2. Re-read the handouts on the steps of a heroic journey with examples provided for *Harry Potter*. Label your chosen writing tasks with the heroic journey steps they correspond to such as ordinary world, call to adventure, reward, etc. You may not have experiences of all of the stages, so it's alright if only some of them are experienced.
3. End with a reflective conclusion that includes a discussion of the transformation that occurred, what you returned with from the experience, as well as the outcome. Use effective narrative techniques such as dialogue and well chosen details. The writing task from Day 20 might be a good place to start in wording your outcome.
4. Sequence your paragraphs according to the steps of the heroic journey and the definition of "Courage Requires Fortitude". Re-read your autobiography in its entirety, adding connecting sentences where necessary.
5. Write a rough draft of your story.
6. Trade papers with another student for editing. Your partner will complete the following sentences:
 - A. The heroic journey stage I enjoyed most about your story was _____ because _____.
 - B. It is clear that what you got out of this experience is _____.
 - C. I would like to hear more about _____.
 - D. I would like clarification on _____.
7. Create a final writing product for your portfolio.