

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 1



Think of a time someone new moved into your neighborhood or school. Or of a time you moved into a new school or neighborhood.

Write a one paragraph narrative sharing about your experience. In today's writing tell your story in chronological order. Engage your reader by establishing context and point of view, introduce your narrator and characters. Use strong descriptions and pacing to develop your story. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the event.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 2



In what ways is Jess critical of Leslie? Have you ever had a first impression of someone and it wasn't positive only to have him or her become a good friend later on? What lessons can we learn from this?

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you describe in detail an experience you had meeting someone for the first time. Engage your readers by establishing context and setting. Use dialog where appropriate. Detail the setting and experiences you two shared for the first time (must be school appropriate). Make sure the details you chose are relevant to your topic. Conclude with a statement which supports your narrative.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 3



Sometimes people expect certain behaviors from others due to their gender. What expectations do the boys have of Leslie? Are those expectations fair? Are there gender expectations in our culture that you disagree with? (Like the man should be breadwinner or the woman should not work...or women should always wear dresses etc.) Jess is able to stand up to Fulcher and defend Leslie and him .

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you detail a situation where you defended yourself and a friend. Introduce a narrator and the characters. Be detailed about the characters and their traits. What was the setting of the situation? Conclude by reflecting on your experiences. For the purpose of today's writing you will put most of your focus on your characters.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 4



What does Jess mean by starting a new season in his life? How has he decided to treat Leslie differently? Does he still care what other people think? Have you, a friend, sibling, parent or guardian ever decided to start a 'new season in your life' or decided to treat someone nicely even if your peers didn't agree?

Have you ever had a "new season" in your life? Write a narrative to describe/detail a real or imagined "new season" that you have experienced. Engage your reader by establishing the context of the situation and point of view of the narrator. Organize the sequences so they develop in a natural order. Provide a conclusion that supports your topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 5



What would it feel like to have a secret world like Terabithia, where you can just be yourself and hang out with your best friend—it is important to Leslie that their land (trees and animals) are protected and that one behaves royally.

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you describe the setting of Teribithia.

Write a dialog between Leslie and Jess in which you detail her rules for the trees and animals of Teribithia. Once you complete your dialog conclude your paragraph using the same form and that reflects on the experiences of the paragraph.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 6



Key Paragraph-Page 61

“A few days after they finished the castle, Janice Avery fell down in the school bus and yelled that Jess had tripped her as she went past. She made such a fuss that Mrs. Prentice, the driver, ordered Jess off the bus and he had to walk the entire three miles home.”

Writing Prompt

Jess is victim to Janice and the situation on the bus is completely unjust. Think about a time when you were treated unfairly (real or imagined).

Write a narrative in which you engage your reader by introducing your characters, the situation and point of view. Write about the situation in a logical order with natural flow. Use dialog if it is appropriate. Use variety and transitions to help the flow of your writing. Paint a picture with descriptive words and variety in your writing. Conclude with a statement that follows flow and ties together your narrative experience.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 7



In this chapter Jess and Leslie work hard to find a way to settle many scores against Janice.

Jess references Leslie's desire to protect the whales as they are becoming extinct. He feels a little guilty about Janice and tries to explain it.

Think about a cause you are passionate about (real or imagined). This could be something in your community, school, nation, or world.

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you describe the cause and how you go about advocating for them. Introduce the persons who are involved and how you take action to assist them. Give good descriptions, dialog, and organize the event to detail. Conclude by relating the cause and your experiences.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 8



In order for Jess to do something special for May Belle he has to short change everyone else. But, he knows that this year May Belle deserves something special. Not only does he give her the special gift he spends time with her the next day helping her dress and play with the doll.

Think of a time you gave someone a really special gift that was extremely meaningful for you and for them. It could be something tangible or a gift of time, a special visit, or giving of your talents. Write a narrative in which you engage your reader with relative details. Introduce your characters and organize the event so it follows a logical flow. Use techniques such as dialog, pacing, and description to develop your characters and situations. Use details and sensory language to capture the action Provide a conclusion which reflects on the events of your readers.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 9



Jess, Leslie, and Bill spent much time refurbishing a room of their house. Much work and detail went into the finished product.

Write a narrative in which you describe a time you created something (real or imagined). It could be a meal, a project, making a clothing item, art piece, ect.

Engage your reader as you introduce the topic and characters. Detail your experience in a logical order with logical flow. Spend time developing the characters and your experience. Use dialog, description and good pacing where necessary.

Use a variety of transition words to convey sequence. Conclude with a statement that reflects on your experiences.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 10



Have you ever had a time when you trusted something that mattered to someone else, a friend, relative, mentor?

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you share your experience. Introduce your reader to the situation (real or imagined) and who was involved. Relate your experiences with this situation in a dialog format. What was shared or said to this person (must be school appropriate). Conclude by reflecting on your experience.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 11



Leslie has never experienced church before and she wants to go and see what it is about. She realizes she can not form an opinion until she tries it. Think about a time you had a new experience (real or imagined and school appropriate). Could be a new food, city, museum, trying a new skill, ect.

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you introduce and engage your reader to your experience. Introduce your narrator and the characters. Organize your writing in a logical order. Use a variety of transitions to keep your reader engaged and dialog where appropriate. Conclude by relating your story to the topic.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 12



Jess has lived in the country his entire life and knows the creek is too big and fast. However, he is not listening to his heart, gut, or head. He is afraid of what Leslie will say.

Think about a time you chose to listen to your gut or chose not to (this can be real or imagined). Write a narrative in which you introduce your situation and the characters who are involved. Share with your reader what happened. Organize your writing logically. Use a variety of transitions and pacing to give your reader variety. Use relevant details and facts to bring life to your writing. Conclude by following the form and sharing reflections on your experience.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 13



Jess knows that he does not have guts and he wants to do something about it. But, he is not quite sure what he needs to do short of a transplant to get guts. Think of a time you had to do something that took a certain amount of guts or bravery to get through it. It may be a difficult conversation, a job interview, trying out for a team.

Write a 1 paragraph narrative (real or imagined). Introduce your reader to the narrator, characters, and situation. Organize your writing with a logical flow or sequence. Use a variety of transitions and dialog to develop your experience and your characters. Add relevant details and sensory language to “show” your reader your experiences. Provide a conclusion that follows form and reflects on your experience.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 14



Jess and his family are in un-charted territory. It is not natural for a young person to die so suddenly. Unlike his sister's his mother chooses to say nothing. Silence is golden.

Think of the situation Jess and his parents are in. They don't communicate well on a good day. Now that their son is hurting they are at a loss.

Write a one paragraph narrative in which you re-write this situation for Jess and his parents. In your situation, Leslie has died. As you write introduce the situation and the characters. Use dialog to re-write the conversation between Jess and his parents to better deliver the horrible news. Keep the facts of the situation based on the reading. Use dialog, pacing, and a variety of transitions to keep your reader engaged. Conclude by reflecting on the events.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 15



It was important for Jess to feel helpful. Taking care of the dog was something he could do to help Leslie's family and indirectly help Leslie.

Think of a time you were able to help someone during a tough time. Write a narrative describing the situation. Establish the point of view. Introduce the characters, situation, and narrator. Use good descriptions and dialog where appropriate. Organize your even in a sequence that flows naturally. Use relevant details and language to describe the situation to your reader. Conclude by relating the topic on a personal level.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Bridge to Terabithia, Day 16



In what way does it take courage for Jess to continue the legacy of Terabithia? Wouldn't it have been easier to put it all behind him and not go there ever again? What do you Leslie would have wanted him to do? In what way is he "going forth" and paying back the world with beauty and caring?

Think of a time that you had the opportunity to pay-it-forward. Write a one paragraph narrative in which you share your pay-it-forward moment. Who did it involved? What happened? What was the end result? Introduce your characters. Use dialog and pacing where appropriate. Organize your even so it flows logically. Conclude with a statement that reflects on your experiences and how they changed you.