

Prompts

Misunderstood Monsters

Write a personal narrative about a time when you were misunderstood or judged. Use techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines to develop experiences, events and/or characters.

Possible follow-up questions

- How do you see yourself? How do you wish to be seen?
- How are you different inside than you appear to be on the surface?
- How are stereotypes about your race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality, religion, etc, different than how you really are, or how your culture really is?
- How does this experience of being misunderstood inform who you are in the world?

Fears and Horrors

Write a personal narrative about a fear you are working to overcome. Use techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines to develop experiences, events and/or characters.

Possible follow-up questions

- What is your relationship to your fear? How did the fear first develop?
- What steps did you take to overcome the fear? What changed in your life?
- What is the central conflict of your story? What series of events build toward a climax? What is the resolution?

Prompts

A Science Experiment Gone Wrong

Write a fictional narrative about a scenario in the future where the growth of science and/or technology have unintended consequences. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

Possible follow-up questions:

- What aspect of science and/or technology are you focusing on? Why?
- Should we fear the power of science and/or technology? Why or why not?
- How do your ideas connect to the danger of the excessive pursuit of knowledge?
- How do your ideas relate to the responsibilities of the creator vs. created?

Rewriting the Story

Pick a moment when things went wrong, a mistake was made, or someone did something they regret. Write a letter where you tell a character what they should do and/or what you want them to know with the perspective you have now. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

Possible follow-up questions

- What were you thinking before, during, and after the action took place?
How did your feelings change at each stage?
- Do you assign blame to someone or something? Can you say who is at fault, or is it harder to determine?
- How does your letter make things more right/just? Is the outcome of your letter more right/just for one character than another?
- How does a character's perspective impact his/her thoughts on whether something was a mistake/regret, or not?