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SPARKS

Your Front Door

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GRADES 7–12

TYPE

NARRATIVE

An effective writing prompt about a significant threshold.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

Give your students a simple writing prompt to get their creative juices flowing:

Picture the front door to where you live. Write about what you see when you look out the door.

This is a short activity—and it's meant to be that way! There are so many ways to extend it if you find yourself with students clamoring to write about front doors and extra time. You could have them swap their writing and draw what their partner described, you could have them draw their own door, you could have them write about one vivid memory related to their front door, etc. Or, you can just do these things:

1. Have them write independently for a few minutes. They can write a full-on description, they can do a bullet point list, they can draw a quick illustration with captions describing everything, whatever works for them and their beautiful brain!
2. Come back as a class and ask why this—a front door—is important. We're short on time here, so keep your students from getting too poetic. The dream answer is that a front door is a threshold into someone's house/community and it's a thing that you get to decide how it's presented—and thus how the world sees you.

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3. Ask students to share their window to the world in small group of 2-3, or ask for a few volunteers to share their front door with everyone!

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