



Scribble House
Prompt Journals

Traveler's Log

27 Writing Prompts
for Wanderers



Introduction

As Orson Scott Card said, “Everybody walks past a thousand story ideas every day. The good writers are the ones who see five or six of them. Most people don’t see any.”

That’s what these prompts aim to do: to help people to see the stories they’d otherwise walk by.

For writers visiting a new place, a prompt can help you slow down and focus in. New landscapes can sometimes feel like sensory overload, with so many cool things to experience it’s hard to pick out any one of them. Having a specific target for your attention can help you see those details (or at least it does for me).

If you’re in a familiar place, a prompt can help you see it in a new way, so you catch those stories you might be inclined to ignore otherwise.

Stories don’t just happen in fiction, either. These prompts are designed for writers of all genres and styles. Non-fiction writers can use them to find new topics for travel writing or personal essays. Poets can use them, too—it’s really just about sparking creativity. What you create is up to you.

One last note: feel free to play around with this book. It’s not homework—you can skip what doesn’t speak to you or repeat prompts you really like, challenge yourself to write all of them or just take it out when you’re feeling uninspired.

There’s no right or wrong way to find the stories in your space—but I hope these prompts help you search (and have some fun doing it).



The prompts

- 1. From the beginning* 4
Explore the location's founding.
- 2. First taste* 7
Eat a new food.
- 3. People watching* 10
Be part of a crowd.
- 4. A beautiful day in the neighborhood* 12
Visit a residential neighborhood.
- 5. Same same but different* 16
Find the familiar in a strange place.
- 6. Near nature* 18
Get familiar with local flora and fauna.
- 7. Another one rides the bus* 22
Take public transportation.
- 8. Folk tale reboot* 24
Modernize a local myth or legend.

9. <i>Show time</i>	26	20. <i>Root, root, root for the home team</i>	55
Attend a live music performance.		Attend a sporting event.	
10. <i>From here to there</i>	30	21. <i>Bsides and rarities</i>	58
Take a walk.		Find an unusual landmark.	
11. <i>Non-human residents</i>	32	22. <i>Unsolved mysteries</i>	62
Inhabit a local animal.		Investigate a local mystery.	
12. <i>There's a museum of what?</i>	34	23. <i>Art imitating art</i>	64
Tour a unique museum.		Write an ekphrastic.	
13. <i>Dark days</i>	36	24. <i>Home cooking</i>	66
Investigate a local tragedy.		Prepare a local dish.	
14. <i>All in a day's work</i>	39	25. <i>Statuesque</i>	70
Learn about the local economy.		Learn the story behind a statue.	
15. <i>After hours</i>	42	26. <i>Weekend getaway</i>	72
Go to a bar or nightclub.		Visit a day trip destination.	
16. <i>Feast days and festivals</i>	44	27. <i>"I could live here"</i>	76
Attend a fair, carnival, or festival.		Imagine your life if you moved to this place.	
17. <i>Learning from the masters</i>	48		
Attend a class or workshop.			
18. <i>Riffing</i>	50		
Get inspiration from a popular song.			
19. <i>Local monsters</i>	52		
Learn about local ghosts, cryptids, or monsters.			

#1:

From the beginning

For the first step of this prompt, we're going to do some research. Look up when the place you're in was founded and by whom. You can use the space below to take notes.

Now, look up some sites where you can see traces of that history. This could be a museum that has artifacts from the founding, a landmark or building that dates to that period, or a historical or archaeological site. Use the space below to take notes on the things that stand out to you when you're visiting this place.