

## Traveler's Log

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27 Writing Prompts for Wanderers



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.

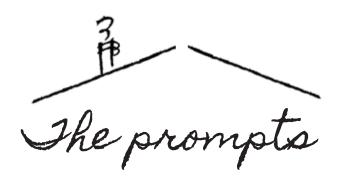
For writers visiting a new place, a prompt can help you slow down and focus in. New landscapes can sometimes feel like sensory overload, with so many cool things to experience it's hard to pick out any one of them. Having a specific target for your attention can help you see those details (or at least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



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. Show time Attend a live music performance.	26	20. Loot, root, root for the home team Attend a sporting event.	55
10. From here to there Take a walk.	30	21. Basides and rarities Find an unusual landmark.	58
//. Non-human residents Inhabit a local animal.	32	22. Unsolved mysteries Investigate a local mystery.	62
12. There's a museum of what? Tour a unique museum.	34	23. Art imitating art Write an ekphrastic.	64
13. Dark days Investigate a local tragedy.	36	24. Horne Cooking Prepare a local dish.	66
14. All in a day's work Learn about the local economy.	39	25. Statuesque  Learn the story behind a statue.	70
<i>15. After hours</i> Go to a bar or nightclub.	42	26. Weekend getaway Visit a day trip destination.	72
/6. Feast days and festivals Attend a fair, carnival, or festival.	44	27. "I could live here"  Imagine your life if you moved to this place.	76
/7. Learning from the masters Attend a class or workshop.	48		
<i>18. Listfing</i> Get inspiration from a popular song.	50		
19. Local monsters Learn about local ghosts, cryptids, or monsters.	52		

## #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.

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