



Four Seasons of Creative Writing: 1,000 Prompts to Stop Writer's Block

Bryan Cohen

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There's no worse feeling for a writer than running smack into a case of writer's block. One of the best ways to get around the problem is to surround yourself with ideas. "1,000 Creative Writing Prompts for Seasons: Ideas for Blogs, Scripts, Stories and More" gives you exactly one thousand idea-generating prompts that focus on the coldest, warmest, toughest and funniest days of the four seasons. This book covers many different aspects of spring, summer, fall and winter including weather, nature, holidays, festivals, the five senses, science, literature, entertainment and more! These 1,000 prompts work for blogs, scripts, stories, poems, essays, songs and anything else that requires you to stare down writer's block and put pen to paper anyway. Originally geared for the classroom, these prompts can be used by any writer from 5 to 105 to get the ideas they need when they need them. Author Bryan Cohen has written over a dozen books of writing prompts including "1,000 Character Writing Prompts: Villains, Heroes and Hams for Scripts, Stories and More," "500 Writing Prompts for Kids: First Grade through Fifth Grade" and "The Writing Prompts Workbook Series." His books have sold over 15,000 copies. He lives in Chicago.

Four Seasons of Creative Writing: 1,000 Prompts to Stop Writer's Block Details

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From Reader Review Four Seasons of Creative Writing: 1,000 Prompts to Stop Writer's Block for online ebook

Jasmin Alexia says

Good prompts. I personally think these are good Journal prompts, but just not writing prompts.

Bethany-Kris says

Someone, though I can't remember who, shot me a link to this like 2 years ago when I wanted you know, a huge list of writing prompts and just wanted anything to stare at to make a scene go when it wouldn't.

This is exactly what it says. Prompts. Sometimes a sentence. Sometimes a line. Sometimes a paragraph. Sometimes questions. They're broken into the four Seasons of the year. I see there's more books to the series.

It's taken me this long to actually get to this book in my Kindle for whatever reason. Clearly my prompt writing idea didn't happen two years ago.

Still isn't.

But the concept makes me keep it on my Kindle carousel for days when I need scenes to go.

Sharla says

Okay, I'm not actually finished yet but do feel qualified to give an opinion. Let me explain. This book is available free from Kindle. A friend for whom English is a second language wanted to use this book as a writing tool. The prompts are to be used as a jumping off point for a story or essay. To make the writing practice more fun we decided to both write something each day and exchange emails sharing our writing. I've been enjoying it immensely. My friend may not be thoroughly adept with English but has a wonderful imagination and sense of style. The book does not seem to be intended for the purpose you might think from the title. I see it more as something that would be helpful for a middle grades English teacher to use in opening doors of imagination for students. In that way it could be super and after all, it's free for a preview.

Nadja says

Useful if you're using it with lower primary grades. But then, that's not what it advertises itself as. Page after page, prompt after prompt, bored me to tears. Perfect for teachers working with small children though!

wanderonwards says

This is a great book if you are looking for prompts just to get you writing - I did not find it to necessarily stop writer's block. This book (which I found for free as a Kindle ebook) is geared towards creative nonfiction, and while I did not read every prompt, I did not find any prompts geared for creative fiction. However, most the prompts could change to fiction with a little imagination.

Overall, my favorite part about Cohen's book was how it was divided into the four seasons and prompts within each season were divided further into categories such as Nature, Activities, Literature, "Mixed Bag", and Food (among many others). My least favorite part about the ebook version is the lack of available navigation - the table of contents with links to each season is located in the very back of the book and you need to flip through each page. I would have enjoyed being able to easily jump to any subject within each season, since most the writers I know pick writing prompts based on what they are feeling and not through numerical order.

Teresa Lopez says

Has some good prompts.

Angela Maher says

This wasn't what I'd hoped it would be. The prompts are the sort of thing a teacher would give their high school class to write essays on. The subject matters and wording is all clearly aimed at this age group. It would be a great resource for a teacher (especially if in the US), but as an adult writer I found almost nothing to inspire me. Some prompts would refer to an event, or song/tv show/etc, which would get my interest, but then the prompt to write coming off that would fall flat.

Young writers might find it useful.

Juliet Wilson says

(I'm not sure if this is the exact same book as the one I've just read, so apologies if it's not)

Four Seasons of Creative Writing is a follow on book to Creative Writing Prompts: Volume 2: More Ideas for Blogs, Scripts, Stories and More, which I reviewed here.

Like its predecessor, this gem of a book is packed full of creative prompts to make you think and create blog posts, articles or stories, to explore issues, stimulate conversations or to share in creative writing classes. The prompts are arranged seasonally and designed to explore ideas rather than technique. Most of the prompts are specifically designed for younger people, but can be adapted to suit all ages and are ideal for schools and writers groups. There are plenty of ideas for nature writing, citizen science and for exploring environmental issues, in non-threatening ways, such as the examples below:

Summer

Sometimes it gets so hot in an area that people have to conserve their water because of drought conditions. Imagine that there was a drought in your area so you couldn't play in the pool or run through the sprinkler.

How would this change your typical summer day and why?

Imagine that you are a tiny hummingbird drinking from a feeder in a beautiful garden. What would it be like to fly around so fast? What might be some dangers you would face on a daily basis? Where would you live and why?

Fall

Create a conversation between two leaves that are about to fall from a tree. One is scared and the other is excited about the long trip to the ground. What do they talk about and why?

You have placed a tracker on an acorn in an effort to find out exactly where your backyard squirrels go during the day. After a squirrel takes the bait, where does it go and why? Are you surprised to find out where the squirrel stashes its goods? Why or why not?

Winter

What do you think it would be like to be the following animals during the winter and why: horse, gorilla, deer, and Chihuahua?

Many ancient cultures celebrated the winter solstice by constructing monuments or holding wild celebrations. How would you have chosen to celebrate the solstice thousands of years ago? What would your family today think about your celebration idea and why?

Spring

How do the smells of spring differ from the other three seasons? How do spring smells make you feel? What makes spring smell the way it does?

Why did the bee fall in love with the flower and start the process of pollination? Create a mythical origin story about when bees realized that flowers should be a part of their lives.

This is a great resource for writers of all ages.

Thanks Story Cartel for my free download of this book.

J.V. Seem says

I read this book to maybe get new ideas for my writing, as that's what it is, quite simply a list of prompts, if you're stuck.

The ideas are divided into seasonal chapters, and focuses on phenomenons and activities for each season.

As it turns out, this book wasn't exactly what I thought it was.
It's not completely useless, but it's also not that useful.

First of all, I wish it had been divided into another set of topics that might have made it easier to navigate. It's

all a bit messy, and clearly that's been a problem for the writer as well, as several identical concepts pop up in different categories. Even when it's not the exact same ideas, it does get a bit repetitive overall.

While it offers up a *lot* of writing ideas, it keeps them very mundane and close to home and everyday things, and doesn't much think outside the box. For those of us who write speculative fiction, that's not necessarily a positive thing. The most useful things were on the topics of weather and environment, which, granted, made me face things I have no choice but to address in my writing. Still... That's hardly revolutionary.

Neither does it offer up pointers on how to use those ideas it *does* provide.

It also seems to be designed for only American children, which is hard to tell from the cover or the blurb. For children because it keeps referring to going to school and living with one's folks instead of the adult equivalent, and American because it covers only American holidays and traditions, not all of which are relevant to me, or anyone else non-American.

There are also a lot of unnecessary writing/editing mistakes, like:

- "...plains, trains and automobiles."
- "What is it important to avoid getting too much of these products in your mouth?"
- "...why is it important for you to humans pick up after themselves?"
- "...trash you've seen that haven't been properly thrown away?"
- "...what would you differently with that group..."
- "While it change for the better?"
- "...a snowman or snowwomen who has..."
- "Snowboards look similar to skateboard and surfboards."
- "...if you were blind and could only use your other sense to..."
- "What will be the toughest party of tidying..."
- "Your friends say that you're the sweetest, but you swear it's the bees that do most of the hard work." I don't at all get this sentence. You make the sweetest honey? Who knows. There's no more of a context.
- "...know how important the planet it."
- "When do you do your most thinking during the day, and..."

This is quite a lot of mistakes for such a modestly sized book.

It's an alright book for this particular use, which is writing about topics you find around the house and in your neighborhood, but it's not terribly helpful, especially not to me.

moxieBK says

Four Seasons of Creative Writing: 1,000 Prompts

There is something for everyone in this creative prompt book. And you can use these for more than creative writing. I used it as a way to escape and relax, if you can believe that! I read through this fairly quickly, but I kept it in my "Reading" shelf a while because there are times when I just wanted to escape and think about other things that maybe are simpler to think about.

As the title indicates, this book is separated into the four season, Summer being first. There are five categories, with ten questions to ponder under each one. Every season is broken down the same:

Nature, Activities, Events: 1) Weather and Nature; 2) Activities; 3) Sports; 4) Events; 5) Mixed Bag #1.

Science and Snacks: 1) Food; 2) Animals; 3) Plants; 4) Science; 5) Mixed Bag #2.

People, Facts, and Fun: 1) People; 2) Facts; 3) Festivals; 4) Holidays; 5) A Mixed Bag #3.

The Five Senses: 1) Sights; 2) Sounds; 3) Smells; 4) Taste and Touch; 5) Mixed Bag #4.

Art, Literature and the World: 1) Literature; 2) Entertainment; 3) History; 4) Around the World; 5) Mixed Bag #5.

Each of these sections have 10 prompts; totaling 250 for each season.

Very nicely done.

Four stars.

Meghan says

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to read Bryan's book 1,000 Creative Writing Prompts Volume 2 as a r2r and I loved it. So when I had the chance at this one, I grabbed the chance.

He did it again - another great set of writing prompts. These would really be great in a classroom or even for people who journal, blog and write. Each of his prompts really make you think and get your creativity flowing.

They say that when you have writer's block, you need to write through it - grab this book, find something that catches your attention and get writing. :)

I can't wait to see what prompts he comes up with next.

Note: I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Christine says

Did not personally find the prompts helpful. Yet, I struggle with creative writing so perhaps that is why.

Carrie Mitchell says

Useful for some

Whilst I recognise that this text is aimed at young writers, there were a few ideas which could be adapted for older writers. That being said, a large proportion of the prompts just don't fit well with non-US residents. Also, the majority ideas were prompting readers to think about themselves and/or their families, but not much which easily translates to imagining how a character which is not the self would think, feel!, or do. I've given it three stars because there's some benefit to others, like me, such as motivation to make our own lists of ideas and prompts, which is less about the self and more adaptable for character creation etc. If you're a young, American blogger or do some journaling, then this is a great resource for you.

Sherry says

I received a free digital copy from storycartel.com in exchange for a review.

I like the way the book organized into the different seasons. Most of the prompts I feel are for young children and teenagers (based on the content and the way prompts were phrased), but they can work for adults as well. The prompts helped me with setting and point of view which are valuable for writing. Some of the prompts had some facts and history that were educational. The best prompts for me was in the Mixed Bag sections.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. It helped me to think about setting and mood. I loved the way it was organized into different seasons. This book will be great for young children/teenagers.

Cat says

Another great book to inspire and help unblock creative writing stalls! I love these books!
