

Write _____ in answer to one of Anne Herbert's questions or to a question you ask yourself. You may or may not want to remove the question from the poem.

What Do You See Out of the Window You Look Out of Most?

1. What do you see out of the window you look out of most?
2. What did you do with your arms today?
3. What has a child told you lately?
4. What stories do you know about your grandparents? Were your grandparents in your life much when you were young? Are they now?
5. When did you have a good time singing? Who were you singing with, who to? What happened?
6. How did you make it through the bad time?
7. When did you see the sunrise? Why were you there? What happened?
8. When did you do something you'd never done in your life til then? Why did you do it? What happened? Are you still doing it?
9. What do you do that makes you tired? Do you like doing it?
10. Where is a place you go often besides the place where you work? Who are the other people there? What do you do?
11. Who do you miss? Where are they now?
12. What is something that happened where you work that you thought about for a long time after it happened?
13. What is something you made this year that you like? (Everything counts—cooking and crafts and building and art and every other kind of making.) Why did you make it? How did you make it? What happened after it was made?
14. What does your father do all day? What did your father do all day?
15. What does your mother do all day? What did your mother do all day?
16. What are clothes you like to wear? What do they look like, how do they feel? Why do you like them?
17. What are some things you do with a person you love that you wouldn't do on your own?

ALPHABET WRITING TOPICS

- A Assistant If you could be someone's assistant, whose would you be and what would your duties be?
- B Bother What bothers you more than anything else?
- C Collection If you could have a collection of anything you wanted, what collection would you like to own and why?
- D Don't What are the 5 "don'ts" you hear most often? What are the two "don'ts" you would like to hear more often, but don't?
- E Enough What are two things you never seem to get enough of?
- F Families If a bird pecked in your window, what would he see everyone doing?
- G Good-bye To whom do you like saying good-bye and why?
- H Heroes Who is the bravest person you can think of and why?
- I If If you were an inch tall, what are some of the things you'd do that you can't do now?
- J Jealous What makes you more jealous than anything?
- K Key If you were presented a key to any place of your choice, which key would you select?
- L Lost and Found In a gutter you find an old gold locket, caked with mud. It has the initials K.P. on it. Who do you think it belonged to and how do you think it was lost?
- M Magic If you were a magician and could change yourself into something else what would you change yourself into?
- N Noise What kind of noise bothers you most? What kind of noises do you enjoy?
- O One If you could only eat one thing for dinner every night for a month, what would it be?
- P People Pick out someone you know very well and describe him or her. Tell not only what he/she looks like, but what he/she is like inside.
- Q Questions If you could ask any animal 5 questions and receive an answer, what animal would you choose and what would your questions be?
- R Rules Tell about 5 rules that you would like to make your parents follow!

S	Surprise	What would be the most super surprise you can think of and why?
T	Title	If you could change your name, what would you change it to and why?
U	Ugh!	What things would make you say "ugh" if you saw them?
V	Vitamins	If you could invent a new vitamin, how would it help you?
W	Wishes	What three wishes would you like to have come true?
X	X-ray	Describe one of the following inside and out: a banana, an orange, a can of soda, your mother's purse or something else.
Y	Year	What will you remember most about this year?
Z	Zigzag	What do you think it is and what can you do with it?

Suggested Activities for a Writer's Notebook

1. people watching—Laundromat, bus stop, bowling alley, skating rink, elevator, cafeteria
2. CIA—eavesdropping
3. observing/describing
4. new words—vocabulary
5. themes—loneliness/kindness
6. poetry
7. dreams
8. tag lines
9. coinages
10. slogans/advertising's false claims
11. analogies
12. metaphors
13. minutiae
14. fabulous realities
15. ironies
16. newspaper stuff
17. contrasts: light and dark/old and young
18. dream journal
19. nature journal
20. work journal
21. first lines for stories or poems
22. reflections
23. ideas for other pieces

1. Describe a time you played a trick on someone.
2. Describe a trick (and why) you would like to play on someone.
3. If your pet could talk what would it say and why?
4. What kind of help would you give to someone who was abusing drugs and/or alcohol? Why?
5. Should priests, ministers, or counselors be required by law to tell the police about illegal acts committed by their clients?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages to having a student smoking section on campus?
7. Should all 18 year olds be required to serve two years in the military as is the case in many countries throughout the world?
8. What crimes (if any) should result in the death penalty? Why?
9. What classes should not be required for graduation and why?
10. Which classes should be absolutely required for graduation and why?
11. Describe a typical dinner hour at your house.
12. Congratulations! You have just been elected the representative for teenagers in this city! It is now your job to create exciting places for teenagers to go to on weekend evenings. Describe your plans for this city's bored teenagers.
13. If you could say anything you wanted to (without repercussions) to anyone you wanted, what would you say and why?
14. What would you like to change about yourself and why?
15. Describe the best things about you.
16. What possession do you absolutely never want to share with another? Why?
17. Do you think that men should adopt their wives' names? Why or why not?
18. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a t.v.?
19. Should abortion remain legal? Why or why not?
20. When should children learn about the facts of life and who should be responsible for sex education--parents or the schools?
21. Do you think that birth control counselors on high school campuses are necessary?
22. Many schools require that the Flag Salute be recited each school day. Do you think that this rule would make you a better citizen? Why or why not?
23. Why do you think many males now enjoy wearing earrings? What is your opinion on this fashion issue? Why?
24. Should pregnant women who learn that their child will be born retarded or deformed have the option to terminate (end) the pregnancy? Why or why not?
25. Should there be prayer in public school?
26. Are ethnic jokes ever acceptable? Explain.
27. Have you ever been caught in a lie? Describe the circumstances and the outcome.
28. What do you think American author Mark Twain meant when he said, "Don't let school get in the way of your education"? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
29. What things scare you? Why?
30. What important things have you learned outside of school?
31. What kind of a 7th grader were you? How have you changed since the 7th grade?
32. Describe your favorite (or worst) year in school.
33. Describe a time you will never forget.
34. Who's your favorite movie or rock star? Why?
35. Describe a time your parents were proud of you.
36. Describe a time your parents were angry with you.
37. What's your favorite pasttime? Why?
38. Do you believe in God? Why or why not?
39. What would you do with a million dollars?
40. Which is your favorite (or worst) season of the year? Why?
41. If you could do something from your past differently, what would it be and why?
42. Should toy stores stop selling war toys? Why or why not?
43. Do you think beer commercials encourage alcohol abuse in our society?
44. Do you think women and men should be considered equal in every way? Why or why not?
45. Happiness is _____ Why?
46. What kind of a thirty year old do you think you will be? Why?
47. What is your favorite comic strip and why?
48. What kind of music would you blast from your airwaves if you ran your own radio station? Why?

1. What's angered you lately and what did you do about it?
2. What's the best gift you have given to someone? Why?
3. What's made you really happy lately? Why?
4. Rewrite the ending to Romeo and Juliet.
5. Which parts of the newspaper do you read and why? Which parts do you skip and why?
6. Which school rules would you like to see changed (or kept the same)? Why?
7. Should Euthanasia (mercy killing/right to die for terminally ill people) be legal? Why?
8. Should all American cities provide shelters for the homeless? Why or why not?
9. What is your opinion on couples who live together but are not married? Explain.
10. What is your opinion on off-shore oil drilling? Explain.
11. Should the California legal drinking age be lowered to 18 or remain at 21? Explain.
12. Is spanking children who misbehave a form of child abuse? Why or why not?
13. Is telling a child that he is stupid also a form of child abuse? Explain.
14. Who is the most important person in your life at this moment? Why?
15. Who has been the best (or worst) influence in your life, so far? Why?
16. What advice about being a teenager do you think you will give to your own teenage children someday? Why?
17. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of wearing a school uniform?
18. What is your opinion on hitch-hiking and picking up hitch-hikers? Why?
19. Is a woman's place in the home? Why or why not?
20. What does it mean to you to be "cool"? Are you "cool"? Explain.
21. Describe someone who is "uncool."
22. Are you spoiled? Explain.
23. How do you behave when you don't get what you want or you don't get your way? Why?
24. Will you register to vote as a Democrat, Republican, or other when you turn 18? Explain.
25. How are you and your parents alike? How are you different?
26. Should members of the KKK, Nazi Party, and other hate groups be allowed to march in public expressing their beliefs? Why or why not?
27. Do you have a mind of your own or do you follow the crowd? Explain.
28. What are your parents always bugging you about and why? How do you react when being "bugged" by your parents?
29. What's your favorite part of the day? Why?
30. What piece of clothing of yours best represents your personality? Why?
31. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of public high schools distributing condoms to students.

101 - JOURNAL TOPICS!!!

Now you can warn your students, "Don't say 'Nothing interesting ever happened to me' until you've read this list!"

1. Did you ever stick up for someone?
2. Describe your neighborhood bully.
3. Did you ever hitchhike?
4. Did you have a paper route?
5. Write about a baby-sitting experience.
6. Describe a great fort you built or a great game you played as a child.
7. Write about an enemy who eventually became your friend.
8. Did you ever fall through the ice?
9. Write about a time you cheated and were caught.
10. Write about a privilege you earned.
11. How did you get along with your cousins?
12. Write about the stray animals you brought home.
13. Describe an event that made you realize you were growing up.
14. Did you ever send away for something that turned out to be a disappointment?

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88. Have you ever had a broken bone?
89. Write about being in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, or some other organization.
90. Did you ever turn someone in or tell on someone and feel bad about it later?
91. Write about going back to school after summer vacation.
92. Describe your playground or vacant lot.
93. Write about a time your parents embarrassed you.
94. Write about a time you embarrassed your parents.
95. Describe learning something from a friend.
96. Describe teaching something to a friend.
97. Have you ever taken a long trip alone?
98. Write about a movie or book that had a very strong impression on you.
99. Write about a time when you gave someone good advice.
100. Describe the best time you ever had in your life.
101. Write about the funniest thing that ever happened to you.

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15. Did you ever prove yourself to someone older?
16. What was it like to go shopping with your grandma? mom? dad? friends?
17. Write about a time you performed in front of an audience.
18. Write about a difficult decision you had to make.
19. Write about a time you found out something about yourself.
20. What did you do last summer? What did you do the summer you were ten?
21. Write about learning to skate, to ride a bike, to climb a tree, or to turn a cartwheel.
22. Describe learning to drive.
23. Did you ever get lost in a strange town?
24. Were you ever locked in or out?
25. Did you ever witness a birth?
26. Write about getting fired or quitting.
27. What was it like to spend your first night away from home?
28. What was it like to come back home after a long vacation?
29. Write about a disappointment.
30. Write about something minor that turned into a big deal.
31. Write about something that flopped.
32. Write about a time you had to communicate with someone you couldn't understand.
33. Did you ever win or lose a contest?
34. Write about something you desperately wanted when you were a kid.
35. Did you ever see a ghost?
36. Did you ever run away from home? How far did you get?
37. Write about the best attic or basement you've ever been in.
38. Did you ever know someone who had "everything"?
39. Write about a time as a child when you played in one of the following: a treehouse, a cornfield, a construction site, a junkyard, an abandoned house or barn, a stream, a cemetery, a swamp, a pasture, railroad tracks?
40. What did you do to amuse yourself as a child when you had to wait for a long time? (for instance, at the doctor's or dentist's office)
41. Did your mom or dad ever make you wear something you hated?
42. What was the earliest you ever got up in the morning? the latest you ever stayed up?
43. Write about a time you were talked into something and regretted it.
44. Were you ever in a helicopter, limousine, race car, hot-air balloon, submarine, or horse-drawn carriage?
45. Did you ever forget something really important?
46. Write about an experience in a hospital.
47. Were you ever accused of something you didn't do?
48. Write about a disastrous trip or vacation.
49. Were you ever given a responsibility you couldn't handle?
50. Were you ever in a fire, flood, tornado, or hurricane?
51. Did you ever have a secret language?
52. Write about becoming disillusioned with someone you admired or respected.
53. Describe the best concert you ever attended.
54. What was the best nickname you ever made up for a friend?
55. Did you ever become friends with someone much older or much younger than you?
56. Did you ever make friends with a wild animal?
57. Write about a window you broke or something valuable you lost.
58. Did you ever climb on the roof when your parents weren't home?
59. Did you ever save someone from getting hurt?
60. Did anyone ever save you from getting hurt?
61. Did you ever catch fireflies? crickets? frogs? snakes?
62. Write about a time when you tried to help and ended up making things worse.
63. Did you ever break an important promise?
64. Write about moving to another city.
65. Describe an outdoor game you used to play in the summertime.
66. Write about picking apples or berries.
67. Write about building sand castles or mud pies.
68. Did you ever meet a famous person?
69. Describe the club you organized as a kid.
70. Write about mowing the lawn, burning leaves, or weeding the garden.
71. Describe a car or bicycle accident you were in.
72. Write about being a misfit.
73. Write about a day spent in another country.
74. Write about a terrifying nightmare.
75. Have you ever brushed shoulders with death?
76. Was there a haunted house in your neighborhood?
77. Write about a time you outsmarted someone.
78. Write about a time you had to wait for something you wanted.
79. What was it like to get glasses or braces?
80. Write about being friends with your brother or sister.
81. Write about going shopping for new clothes.
82. Did you ever try to be something you really weren't?
84. Write about job hunting.
85. Write about wearing high heels or a necktie for the first time.
86. How did you find out the truth about Santa Claus?
87. Write about seeing the ocean or the mountains for the first time.

JOURNAL TOPICS UNLIMITED

1. Who are the three most important people in your life and why?
2. What age would you like to be, if you could be another age?
3. Your favorite color and why.
4. The weirdest thing you ever did.
5. Soap operas.
6. Your favorite TV show.
7. Your all-time favorite movie.
8. Five ways to bug your siblings.
9. The joys of eating.
10. MUSIC
11. Five easy ways to beat up Superman.
12. How to enjoy school?
13. How to give a party.
14. The weirdest thing that ever happened to you at a party.
15. The reason for graffiti.
16. What do you think about in a totally boring class?
17. How to sneak out of the house.
18. The beach.
19. The wave.
20. Things you did last summer.
21. What you do in your spare time.
22. How to be a class clown.
23. Hobbies.
24. What to do when you get your first car.
25. How to con your friends.
26. How to sneak out of the house when you're grounded.
27. How to fall off a moped.
28. The goriest thing that's ever happened to you.
29. What you would say if you were a computer.
30. Your favorite movie star.
31. What you feel about hunting for sport.
32. What you feel about war.
33. What you feel about peace.
34. Aids. Know anybody?
35. Rules for marriage.
36. My most embarrassing moment.
37. How to control your teacher.
38. Your favorite novel.
37. Travel.
38. Least/ most favorite class.
39. New fads.
40. Sport.
41. What the world will be like in 50 years.

42. How humans came to be on earth.
43. What you would do if you didn't have school.
44. You're in a shuttle going to live in a new colony in space.
45. You're in a foreign country and you cannot speak their language.
46. If you were a super hero, what would your powers be?
47. Whom would you really like to meet?
48. Environment.
49. Endangered species.
50. Where are the stars when the sun shines?
51. What you think of UFOs and outer space.
52. Why you're an optimist/ pessimist.
53. ESP, etc.
54. What's the best/ worst thing you've ever written?