

**Short Story Prompts**  
**Williams College Lehman Community Engagement**

A. Age Group: 7-12

1. What does winter feel like to you? What does summer feel like to you?
2. When was your happiest moment in your life? What were the surroundings at that moment like (weather, smell, texture, etc.)?
3. Imagine you are traveling around the forest, and you met a little deer. What will the deer say to you?
4. Where is your favorite place outside? What makes the place so important to you?
5. Who is your best friend? How did you become close to your friend? What do you like most about your friend? I encourage you to write about this on a sunny day at your favorite place outside.
6. Go outside and find a tree. What story would that tree tell you? What story would you tell it?
7. Imagine you were shrunk down to the size of a blade of grass. What adventure would you go on?
8. If you were a seed floating in the wind, where would you choose to grow and why?
9. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?
10. Tell us about a small moment (a special time that is especially memorable to you) in your life over the past year. What has been your small moment with family? With friends? With classmates?
11. Tell us about someone new you have met - it can be an animal, a pet, or a new friend.
12. Why is it important that we share and tell short stories? What is your favorite short story that you have been told?

B. Age Group: Elementary/middle school students

- Write a short story or poem about your favorite thing that lives outside (like a tree, a flower, a bird, etc).
- Spend some time outside and take note of everything that you see—every animal and plant. Write a short story from the point of view of one of the animals or plants you saw.
- Bring your pen/pencil/paper outside and write a poem about the weather. Write about what it smells like, sounds like, feels like, and looks like.
- Imagine you have the power to talk to animals! What would you say to them? What would they say to you?
- Write an acrostic poem for the word “Nature.” (Hint: try going outside and be inspired by the things you see, hear, and feel)

#### C. Age Group: Middle schoolers

- Perspective, or point of view, changes the way we see things. For example, a bug on the ground would see a tree from a different perspective than a bird in the sky. Write about one event in a forest from multiple perspectives, such as different plants, animals, or even the earth and the sky.
- Find a nice place to sit (outside works best, but anywhere will work) and focus on just one sense—taste, touch, smell, sight, or sound. Write a detailed description of where you are based just on that one sense.
- Water is one of the key ingredients of life; every living thing needs it. The same water you drank today has been on the Earth for as long as it’s been around! Write a story about the journey a drop of water goes on before you drink it. Was it part of the river that carved out the mighty Grand Canyon? Did a dinosaur splash in it? Did Abraham Lincoln boil it to make spaghetti?

#### D. Age Group: All Ages

- Stories about empowerment, specifically targeted at getting through trials and tribulations, and uplifting children in their feelings (i.e. talk about getting through a difficult time in school or dealing with an inconvenience and getting through it)
- “An Adventure Through the Woods” -> A adolescent goes on a walk and ends up engaging in an adventure with woodland creatures