

## Books are Magic

**Prompt Title:** Books are Magic

(Time Commitment: 15- 30 minutes, depending on your own adaptations and depth of class discussion)

**Prompt Directive:**

Explain your interpretation of the quote, "Books are uniquely portable magic."

**Classroom Ideas:**

**First**, discuss the words "unique" and "portable" as individual words. What does the phrase "uniquely portable" mean? By ensuring the students have a solid understanding of the key vocabulary necessary for responding to this prompt, the independent writing can be assessed solely on writing skills rather than on the ability to understand an unusual phrase with tricky vocabulary.

**Next**, spend a few minutes reviewing the elements of a thoughtful informative essay.

1. The opening paragraph engages and orients the reader to the topic or central idea.
2. Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 offer relevant details and ideas that relate specifically to the central idea presented in Paragraph 1. Each paragraph is focused on one key idea that supports the central topic of the essay.
3. The concluding paragraph reinforces the importance of the topic, bringing the entire essay to a strong conclusion.

**Finally**, allow students to respond to the prompt independently.

**Consider these Resources:**

[Framework for Informative Writing in the Lower and Middle Grades \(click to navigate\)](#)

[Get to the Point \(click to navigate\)](#)

## Books are Magic

### **ELA Standards Alignment:**

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

## Books are Magic

“Books are a uniquely<sup>1</sup> portable<sup>2</sup> magic,” is a quote by a famous author, Stephen King. What do you think that King meant by this quote? To understand its meaning, think carefully about what each word means. How does Stephen King feel about books? Write a well-developed informative essay about the meaning of the quote. To support your ideas, include examples from your own experiences and from books you have read that show your understanding of the quote.

<sup>1</sup> unique: something that is special and different from other things

<sup>2</sup> portable: something that is light and easy to carry from place to place

### Prewriting Suggestions

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- 1) Think about the meaning of King's statement.
- 2) What kind of magic do you think King was talking about?
- 3) Look at the meaning of the words in the quote to help you understand how King feels.
- 4) Provide some personal examples from books you have read that will reinforce or support what King is talking about in this quote.

### Editing and Revising Suggestions

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- 1) Have you organized your ideas in a logical way?
- 2) Did you remember to write an introduction and conclusion?
- 3) Do all of your paragraphs relate to this topic?
- 4) Have you included enough details or examples to make your ideas clear, and have you chosen the best words to express your ideas?
- 5) Are your sentences clear and complete?
- 6) Have you used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly connect your ideas?
- 7) Have you taken time to check that your spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation are correct?

## Transition Words and Phrases for Thoughtful Writers

- occasionally
- usually, often
- frequently, especially
- specifically
- principally
- mainly, namely
- significantly
- indeed
- for example, for instance
- first of all; for one thing
- most important, most importantly
- to illustrate
- in particular; in general
- in this way, in this manner
- at the same time; in the same way
- likewise
- similarly
- like
- as
- also
- above all
- further, furthermore
- moreover
- first, second, third . . .
- next
- other
- besides
- too
- likewise
- last
- again
- finally
- in addition
- in the second place, secondly
- what is more
- indeed
- in fact
- although, even though, though
- at the same time
- and yet
- conversely
- however; but; yet
- in contrast
- nevertheless, nonetheless
- notwithstanding
- on the one hand
- or
- not
- on the contrary
- no doubt, doubtless, doubtlessly
- surely
- certainly
- naturally
- granted that
- although this [noun] may be true
- admittedly
- I admit
- one must concede
- after all
- therefore
- for that reason
- consequently, as a consequence
- as a result
- so
- because
- since
- for
- again
- as I have pointed out, as I have mentioned
- in other words
- once again
- in fact
- indeed
- to repeat
- before
- after, afterward
- earlier
- last week
- yesterday
- tomorrow
- fortunately
- unfortunately
- sadly; happily; surprisingly; regretfully
- as expected
- much to my surprise
- hopefully
- still
- whereas