

FOCUS ON FAITH by SHARON LAWRENCE

CTN IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW CATHOLIC RESOURCE: CATHOLIC WRITING PROMPTS

What are Writing Prompts?

The more students write - the better writers they become. Writing Prompts are web pages with images and text which 'spark' the imagination of the student to write. We have developed the Catholic Writing Prompts so teachers can easily integrate Religion and Language Arts into their curriculum. Students will focus on the image presented and then be challenged by a series of questions which cause them to reflect on how their faith can be expressed in daily life.

What themes are included in the Writing Prompts?

The Writing Prompts all have a Catholic theme and attempt to help students develop a living faith that expresses the Gospel values. The Writing Prompts are grouped in Grade levels. (K-3, 4-5, 6-8)

Grades K-3

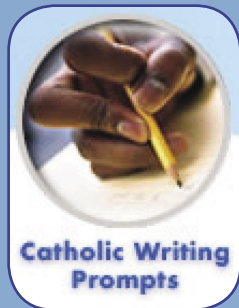
The Writing Prompts for Grades K-3 focus on Catholic Character and the qualities we nurture in our younger students. Some themes include: kindness, sharing, respect, cooperation, and caring.

Grades 4-5

The Writing Prompts for Grades 4-5 focus on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Some themes in the Prompts include: responsibility, honor, generosity, honesty and obedience.

Grades 6-8

The Writing Prompts for Grades 6-8 focus on Social Justice and Faith in Action. They encourage students to reflect on the world around them and how their faith can be applied in daily life. Some themes include: poverty, bullying, violence, respect, making choices, and racism.



Where are the Writing Prompts on CTN's website?

Go to www.ctnba.org and click on Catholic Resources.

Once you are logged in, you can click on **Catholic Writing Prompts** and you will see a list of the Prompts for different grade levels.

How can I use the Writing Prompts?

All the Writing Prompts are available online as web pages. Here are some practical ideas for using them in the classroom:

1. Connect a computer to a projector and have the whole class view the Writing Prompt. Allow the class to discuss the Prompt and brainstorm their ideas about the particular theme, before writing their own responses.
2. Students individually can view a Writing Prompt on their computer and write responses during Religion class.
3. For the first 15 minutes of a day have a small group of students go to a particular Writing Prompt and collaborate together to present a short talk to the class about the theme.
4. For K-1 students, the Writing Prompts can be used to 'spark' oral language and to introduce key concepts such as sharing, kindness, cooperation etc.
5. Teachers may also print the Writing Prompts and distribute them to groups of students for homework assignments etc.

Writing Prompt: Compassion



Compassion is the deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.

Spend a few minutes looking at the photo above. Write down your thoughts and feelings.

What did Jesus tell us to do when we see people suffering?

What do you think is the cause of suffering?

Research a person of history who showed deep compassion for other people. What motivated that person to care deeply, and what part did his/her belief in God have a part in it?

Video Highlights from CTN's Library

Grades K-2

Reading Rainbow Set 2: Through The Moon & Stars & Night Skies

For Broadcast or Loan
RR-048 (30:00)

An adopted boy takes a long journey to the United States to join his new family. LeVar meets families who describe happy relationships formed by adoption.

Fri., 2/3 9:30-10:00 Ch. 10

Fri., 2/3 2:15-2:45 Ch.10

Mon., 2/6 9:45-10:15 Ch.10

Tues., 2/7 1:25-1:55 Ch.10

Science is Elementary: Let's Explore Animals

For Broadcast or Loan
SIE-002 (15:00)

Considers the differences in animal sizes, movement, and homes. Exploration: Why do animals have camouflage and other specialized body parts?

Mon., 2/6 11:05-11:20 Ch. 12

Wed., 2/8 9:30-9:45 Ch. 12

Story Circle: Dr. De Soto

For Broadcast or Loan
SF-048 (10:10)

A hungry fox with a toothache begs a mouse dentist to relieve his pain in a modern-day fable.

Wed., 2/8 8:50-9:00 Ch.12

Thurs., 2/9 9:05-9:15 Ch.10

Fri., 2/10 11:05-11:15 Ch.10

Mon., 2/13 1:40-1:50 Ch. 10

Reading Rainbow Set 2: The Wonderful Towers of Watts

For Broadcast or Loan
RR-050 (30:00)

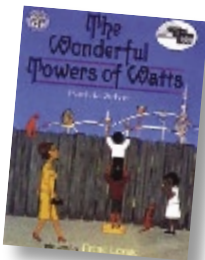
An amazing architect shows creativity in the midst of a community challenged by violence. LeVar talks with the children of Watts, who share their fears & hopes.

Mon., 2/13 9:45-10:15 Ch.10

Fri., 2/17 9:30-10:00 Ch. 10

Fri., 2/17 2:15-2:45 Ch.10

Tues., 2/21 1:25-1:55 Ch.10



Story Circle: Blueberries for Sal

For Broadcast or Loan
SF-050 (8:45)

A little girl and a little bear on a blueberry-picking trip get all mixed up with each other's mothers.

Wed., 2/22 8:50-8:58 Ch. 12

Thurs., 2/23 9:05-9:14 Ch. 10

Fri., 2/24 11:05-11:14 Ch. 10

Mon., 3/6 1:40-1:49 Ch. 10

Grades 3-5

Saints Alive: Joan of Arc

For Broadcast or Loan
SAL-008 (15:00)

Joan responded to God's call to lead the French army into victorious battles against the English. She was later accused of heresy and burned at the stake as a martyr.

Wed., 2/1 8:20-8:35 Ch. 12

Fri., 2/3 10:45-11:00 Ch. 10

Fri., 2/3 1:00-1:15 Ch. 10



Colonial Williamsburg: Chained to the Land

Electronic Field Trip (60:00)



Plantation masters exploited enslaved African Americans by using their labor to create a successful agricultural economy. Explore

the economic, social, and racial development of plantation life from the perspective of both master and slave.

Thurs., 2/9 10:00-11:00 Ch. 8

Thurs., 2/9 1:10-2:10 Ch. 8

The Gospel According to Saint Bernard: Judge Not

For Broadcast or Loan
SB-002 (25:00)

Jason and Amanda are new at school, and are shunned by other students because they seem different. With Bernie's help, Daniel and Jennifer learn that it's wrong to make judgments based on prejudice.

Mon., 2/6 8:55-9:20 Ch. 12

Tues., 2/7 8:20-8:35 Ch. 12

Thurs., 2/9 11:35-11:50 Ch.12

Adventures With Animals: Amphibians: What are They?

For Broadcast or Loan
AWA-003 (10:00)

Visit the rain forests of South America, the swamps of South Carolina, and the jungles of Thailand in search of amphibians.

Tues., 2/14 9:55-10:05 Ch. 12

Fri., 2/17 9:15-9:25 Ch. 12



Interview with Rosa Parks

For Broadcast or Loan
ST-128 (22:00)

A video interview with Rosa Parks, the courageous black woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus during segregation, giving impetus to the Civil Rights Movement.

Tues., 2/21 9:20-9:42 Ch. 12

Wed., 2/22 11:35-11:57 Ch.12

Science For You: Rocks: When is a Rock a Liquid?

For Broadcast or Loan
SY-004 (15:00)

Shows how volcanoes produce rocks, what geologists learn from rocks, and the pros and cons of mining. Experiments include Mining for Chocolate Gold & Homemade Lava.

Tues., 2/21 11:00-11:15 Ch. 10

Thurs., 2/23 1:40-1:55 Ch. 10



BROADCAST AND VIDEO LOAN REQUESTS

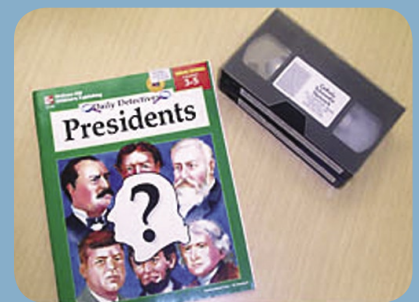
- Broadcast videos may be scheduled at alternate times by calling CTN at 650-326-7850, ext. 12 or by email to request@ctnba.org.
- Loan videos and kits may be borrowed for 2 weeks and should be returned to CTN.
- Videos may be duplicated unless noted otherwise.
- CTN staff are available to assist you from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
- UPS return label included with each video at no cost to you.

Presidents

Multimedia Kit
Level: Grades 2-5

Includes:

- Book: Daily Detectives: Presidents
- Video: President's Day (30:00)
- Video: Colonial America (11:00)



Grades 6-8

Castle: Development of Castles

For Broadcast or Loan

WH-026 (15:00)

Part of a four-part series that tells how a typical thirteenth-century Welsh castle was constructed, explaining its cultural and sociological significance as well as its architectural design. An animated story dramatizes the building of the castle and portrays the lifestyle of its early inhabitants.

Mon., 2/6 11:25-11:40 Ch. 12

Tues., 2/7 2:00-2:15 Ch. 10

Thurs., 2/9 10:00-10:15 Ch. 12

Portraits: Elizabeth Blackwell



For Broadcast or Loan
POR-003 (15:00)

America's first female doctor came from England at age 10 and graduated from Geneva (NY) College of Medicine at 28. After practicing briefly in Paris and London, she

returned to New York City, where she and her sister founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children.

Mon., 2/13 10:25-10:40 Ch. 12

Wed., 2/15 1:35-1:50 Ch. 12

Body Image: Self Esteem

For Broadcast or Loan

BI-003 (10:00)

Teenagers offer anecdotes from real-life experiences to explore how a person develops positive self-esteem. They suggest the idea that feeling good about yourself requires looking beyond appearances.

Wed., 2/15 11:40-11:50 Ch. 10

Thurs., 2/16 1:55-2:05 Ch. 12

Lincoln and the Underground Railroad

Multimedia Kit

Gr. 6 - 12

Includes:

- Video: Abraham Lincoln, Preserving the Union – A&E Biography series video
- Book: Lincoln Memorial - Official National Park Handbook
- Book: Underground Railroad - Official National Park Handbook, details history of slavery in the south and the struggle to freedom for slaves

Visit with George Washington

For Broadcast or Loan

AHO-017 (22:00)

A dramatic narrative illustrated with live-action film and illustrations from the period tells the story of our first president.

Thurs., 2/16 11:25-11:47 Ch. 10

Fri., 2/17 8:25-8:47 Ch. 12

Tues., 2/21 10:15-10:37 Ch. 12

Wed., 2/22 9:05-9:27 Ch. 12

Wed., 2/22 1:50-2:12 Ch. 12



Tracks: Divided & United

For Broadcast or Loan

TRA-008 (15:00)



Alabama is the setting for learning why planting cotton increased the South's dependence on slaves and how the split between the

Confederacy and the Union led to the Civil War. In Montgomery, they hear the story of Rosa Parks, who inspired black citizens to boycott the bus system.

Tues., 2/21 8:45-9:00 Ch. 10

Wed., 2/22 1:20-1:35 Ch. 12

Shakespeare on Stage: Shakespeare's Language

For Broadcast or Loan

H-043 (15:00)

This program addresses the difficulties of interpreting Shakespeare's language. The words on the page are incomplete, waiting to be spoken aloud and acted.

Wed., 2/22 2:15-2:30 Ch. 10

Thurs., 2/23 11:05-11:20 Ch. 10



Professional Development

★ Creating a Classroom Website Using Scholastic.com

For Broadcast or Loan

TEA-253 (35:00)



Materials Included

Step by step directions for teachers to create a simple "fill in the blank" class website. The video shows how to add announcements, homework and web links as well as how parents can login and see the completed website.

★ The Children Are Watching

Loan Video (20:00) Teachers

A video from a series on domestic violence shows that children demonstrate common behavioral and psychological problems. Professionals discuss the resources available to help children who come from abusive homes.

★ The Dancing Tulip

Loan Video (20:00) Gr. 3-6/ Teachers

Materials Included

The story of a young tulip who is always looking for "something more" is told as a parable to introduce the concept of death and resurrection to children. Created and illustrated with luminous watercolor drawings by Sr. Liz Tiernan, SND.

★ Human Sexuality: Wonderful Gift and Awesome Responsibility

4-Part Series (30:00 Each) Adults

For Broadcast or Loan

Patricia Martens Miller and Rev. Richard Sparks, moral theologian, give an overview of the 1990 USCC document Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning. They also suggest ways to develop appropriate programs for education.

History and Content of the Document on Human Sexuality

PAR-184 (30:00)

Effective Implementation and Educational Programs

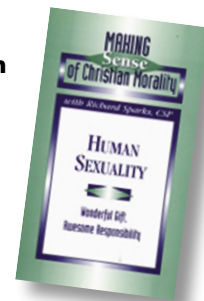
PAR-186 (30:00)

Conscience Formation

PAR-187 (30:00)

Questions from Teens

PAR-188 (30:00)



Black History Month - February, 2006

Every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated.



Carter G. Woodson

Black History Month

<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/>

From Jackie Robinson to Tiger Woods, Harriet Tubman to Barack Obama, Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future.

Level: Grades 6-8

Biographies of Notable African Americans

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/bhm1.html>

History and timelines of famous firsts and biographies of notable African Americans. Students will find African American quotes, black scientists, sports celebrities, and African-Am. literature.

Level: Grades 3-4

Rosa Parks

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/par0pro-1>

Read the Biography and an Interview with Rosa Parks. Students can view a detailed Photo Gallery of the early days of her life.

Level: Grades 6-8

GROUNDHOG DAY – FEBRUARY 2ND

Celebrate Groundhog Day with a Class Party!

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson048.shtml

After your students have researched information about Groundhog Day, organize a class party to share their findings.

Level: Grades K-4



Groundhog Day Scavenger Hunt

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/hunt/images/hunt021.pdf

Students complete a downloadable Scavenger Hunt to learn more about the history of the first Groundhog Day.

Level: Grades 4-8

Information and History of Groundhog Day

<http://www.groundhog.org/>

Students can research facts about Punxsutawney Phil and teachers can use the many lesson plans for classroom use.

Level: Grades 6-8

OnScreen Links: Whenever text appears in this color in the OnScreen Newsletter it indicates that there is a live link imbedded in the document. Download the PDF version to your desktop to take advantage of this feature at http://www.ctnba.org/onscreen_newsletter.htm.



Valentine's Day - February 14th

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different Saint Valentines and all three were martyred. The traditions of St. Valentine's Day are generally associated with 'Valentine of Rome.' According to the Catholic Church, Valentine was a 3rd century Priest imprisoned for giving aid to martyrs in prison and converted the jailer by restoring sight to the jailer's daughter. One Legend states that Valentine was imprisoned for marrying young men of fighting age against the law of Emperor Claudius II. Whichever is the case, legend states that before his death, Valentine wrote a letter to the jailer's daughter and signed it 'From your Valentine.' What the exact truth behind Valentine's life and death is difficult to know for sure. The stories emphasize a heroic, romantic figure and by the Middle Ages Valentine was a very popular saint in England and France. The customs and traditions surrounding St. Valentine's Day involves hearts, cupid, card giving, and of course, love.



Promise Book Project

Jesus taught us to express our love to others through our actions. A great way to integrate Religion and Valentine's Day activities is to make Promise Notes or a Promise Book.

3. Students choose the pages they would like to add to the Promise Book. Some examples include:

- I will clean my bedroom.*
- This coupon is good for one hug.*
- I promise I will rake the leaves.*
- I will walk the dog.*



4. Staple the pages together with the cover on the front.

The Promise Book template can be found at:

<http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/PromiseCards/main-page.html>

Grade Level: K-4
Instructions

1. Students choose who they would like to make the Promise Book for. Examples are grandparents, parents, sisters, brothers, or friends. Each template is downloadable and easily printable.
2. Students then choose a cover pattern for the book. Heavy colored construction paper is needed for the cover.

Valentine's Craft Projects from Enchanted Learning

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/valentine/index.shtml>

Lots of great card designs and ideas for creative Valentine's projects.



Make Valentine's Day Cards for the elderly, home-bound or hospitalized people using templates from the site above.

Grade Level: K-4

President's Day Web & Video Resources



The History of the Holiday

President's Day is the third Monday in February! This holiday was created to celebrate the deeds of two legendary American Presidents: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Learn about these great leaders and other presidents in this collection of sites and activities.

1968 Congress passed legislation moving the observance of George Washington's birthday from February 22 to the third Monday in February.

1971 The legislation passed in 1968 took effect in 1971. Some people think that the legislation combined the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington to create Presidents' Day. Congress never combined Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays. The holiday is still officially called Washington's Birthday.

Web Resources

Arts and Craft Ideas for President's Day

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/presidentsday/>
Lots of ideas for making log cabins, patriotic flags, printable George Washington books, word search puzzles, and President's Day art and craft activities.
Level: Grades K-4



U.S. Presidents - Ben's Guide to the US Government

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/k-2/index.html>

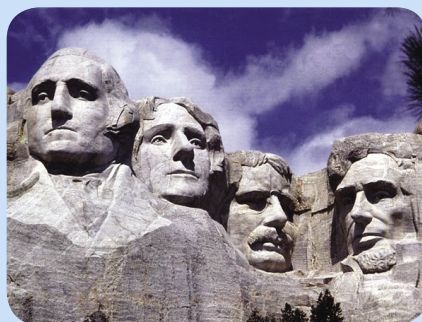
A great page for teaching early elementary students about our government.
Level: Grades K-2

President's Day

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>
Find information on each President

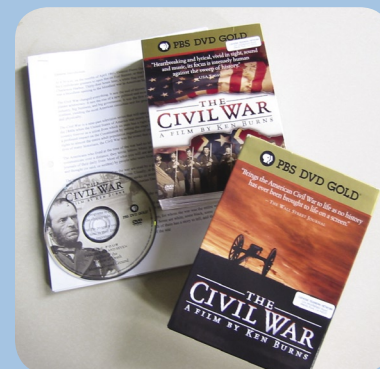
A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln

<http://www.gliah.uh.edu/index.cfm>
This site has wonderfully organized American history topics from pre 1600 - Exploration of America to current event topics. Good site for student research.
Level: Grade 6 and up



The Civil War - 8 DVD Kit

Multimedia Kit
Gr. 6-12



Includes:

- Five DVD discs and:
- A commentary by Ken Burns (5 hours)
- "Behind the Scenes: The Civil War Reconstruction"
- Additional interviews with Ken Burns, Shelby Foote, George Will, and Stanley Crouch
- 57 on-screen biography cards
- Battlefield maps
- Civil War Challenge (trivia)
- "Ken Burns: Making History" (featurette) "A Conversation with Ken Burns" (featurette)

President's Day - Treasure Hunt

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jstewart/hunt1.htm>

Interactive Treasure Hunt that includes links to information about President's Day. (Note: the link to question 4 is not active.)
Level: Grades 4-6

Streaming Video Resources

Holiday Facts & Fun: Presidents' Day

http://www.unitedstreaming.com/index.cfm//type/video/action/stream/media_file_id/1165090

Children learn why George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are given special recognition on President's Day. The video explains why Washington is known as the "father of his country." It also tells the story of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation and explains how our 16th President prevented the United States from being destroyed. Students learn why cherry pie is a traditional treat on Washington's Birthday and they discover that Lincoln grew his beard at the suggestion of an 11-year-old girl.

Includes [Teachers' Guides](#) and [Correlations](#)

Level: Grades K - 4



Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address

http://www.unitedstreaming.com/index.cfm//type/video/action/stream/media_file_id/1051163

Jean Fritz's classic telling of the story of the Gettysburg Address comes alive. Abraham Lincoln had to run the country, win the war and look after his family. When he was

asked to honor the soldiers who died in the great battle of Gettysburg, he made time to say a few words about them too.

Includes [Teachers' Guides](#) and [Correlations](#)

Level: Grades 3 - 5



ONSCREEN

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CTN'S SURVEY RESULTS & IPOD WINNERS

May I Have the Envelope Please?

Jeanette Michael (Fourth Grade, St. Philip Neri, Alameda) and Leah Mendoza (Pre-K St. John the Baptist, Milpitas) were the lucky teachers whose names were pulled from a hat containing names of more than 330 teachers who participated in CTN's December Survey. Fr. Jerry Brown, Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary conducted the drawing on Dec. 16.

Jeanette has been teaching 22 years and plans to use her Nano to listen to her favorite classical music whereas Leah, a first year teacher, will be hip-hopping down the streets of Milpitas.

Results of our Survey

Survey results will be used to improve communications and services for classroom teachers. Some of the results were as follows:

- 85% knew about our services, however only 70% actually use streaming video and Catholic Resources
- 66% enjoy the OnScreen newsletter however only 40% realized it is available on-line with click and go live links
- 86% said we should focus on Catholic Writing Prompts
- 92% want Catholic Lesson Plans
- 96% seek Technology/Religion integration ideas
- 93% want more Catholic Webquests

To stay in touch, go to our website: www.ctnba.org and click on "Join CTN's email list" or send an email to hersh@ctnba.org

Thanks to everyone who took the survey.

CATHOLIC WRITING PROMPTS

A picture is worth a thousand words.
What do you see in these photos?



A New Teaching Resource

Catholic Writing Prompts are images and text that 'spark' the imagination of students to write in a creative and effective way. These new teaching resources give teachers an easy way to integrate writing into the Religion curriculum.

Writing Prompts are a way for teachers to challenge students in how, as Catholics, we have a responsibility to live a thoughtful life based on the Gospel values. The photos above depict themes of homelessness, respect for life, and peace, which are intertwined in our daily lives.

The Catholic Writing Prompts not only encourage students to consider ways they can put their faith into action, but they also develop the important skills of writing and critical thinking.

The Writing Prompts can be found at:

http://www.ctnba.org/cath_res/cath_writing_prompts/cath_wp.php

More information on Catholic Writing Prompts can be found in the Focus on Faith section in this newsletter.