

# What i look for in a FRIEND...

*Journal Prompts*



FREEBIE



# Inspiration and Motivation

Each school year brings new students, new enthusiasm for learning, and unfortunately at times, new issues and problems that students need considerable help navigating. One area I feel is a work in progress each year is helping my almost middle school girls and boys work through their frustrations, aggravations, and complete annoyance with one another. Often it starts outside of school, but quickly it becomes a huge issue that impacts learning because my students are so worked up. One day these arguing students are "besties," and the next, dream of ripping the others' hair out. Ok, maybe not that severe, but I will share that I have broken up a few of these in my 15 years. That is worst case scenario, of course. My goal is always to catch things before they get out of hand, so the situation doesn't go even more beyond where it has already gotten.

In addition, I have found that I can talk until I am blue in the face, but what ALWAYS needs to happen is the chance to let my students get their thoughts out and then we can work through the remaining concerns and worries. Sometimes tempers are so high and feelings are so hurt that talking will get us nowhere because it will simply lead to a yelling match. So I created these prompts. They are not to be used in every situation, but perhaps getting your students to reflect is the best way to make some changes and see improved relationships.

I am not a counselor; I just play one a few days a week. Instead of beating my head against a wall when I am faced with the same struggles with student friendships, I created these journal prompts as a positive way to make some encouraging changes in students that are struggling with their friendships with others. Please use as you see fit.

## **Ideas for Use:**

1. Make copies of prompts.
2. Use in a writing center, with a whole class, small group, or individual.
3. Utilize as a conflict management tool or for high-interest response writing.
4. Allow students time to reflect and write.
5. Share responses as you deem appropriate.
6. Encourage positive friendship characteristics daily.

[illegible]

**Prompt:** Describe yourself as a friend. What three characteristics do you exhibit that show you are a true friend? In three separate paragraphs, explain each characteristic and why you believe it is important in maintaining your friendships with others.

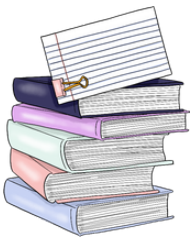
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

**Directions:** Read the following prompt. Then respond answering all components of the prompt. Be sure to use correct capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Read your response once you have finished your writing to make sure your ideas are written as clearly, completely, and correctly as possible.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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# THANK YOU!



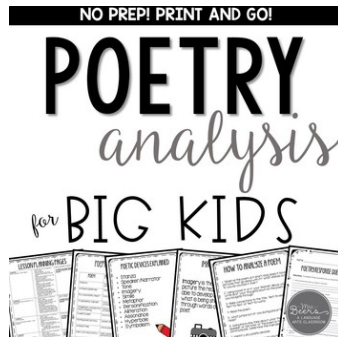
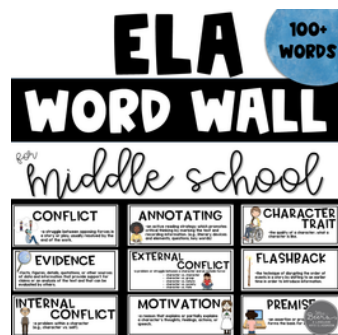
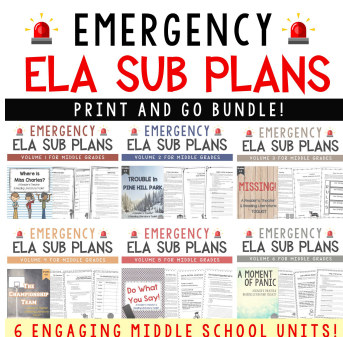
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