

# The Stories We Tell

**Prompt Sequence:** Grade: 9 | Genre: Narrative

Our nine-week prompt sequence helps Grade 9 students to strengthen and advance their narrative writing skills. Our Spot Check and Signal Check prompts emphasize the importance of pre-writing, plot organization, and language choice in narratives. Teachers can utilize the Exemplar Essays, as well as the Expansion Pack and Curriculum Resource activities, in support of their students' acquisition and practice of these fundamental narrative writing skills.

## Week 1: Diagnostic

Use **A Story About Laughter** in Spot Check as a diagnostic writing task to get a baseline regarding students' starting levels in each trait.

## Week 2: Review

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on the diagnostic. Utilize an Expansion Pack activity that helps to illustrate and define key elements of successful narrative writing.

## Week 3: Preparation

Prepare students for their formative assignment by leading an Expansion Pack activity aimed at improving weaker areas.

## Week 4: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Question Everything** for students to practice narrative writing skills and receive actionable, formative feedback on their writing.

## Week 5: Review

Print and discuss the **Question Everything** Exemplar Essays to revisit key elements of successful narrative writing.

## Week 6: Skill Building

Prepare an Expansion Pack activity that will support students in their pre-writing brainstorm stage, their essay organization, or their language use.

## Week 7: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **What's My Name?** for students to practice learned narrative writing skills and receive actionable, formative feedback on their writing.

## Week 8: Skill Solidifying

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on their formative assignments. Implement activities from the Expansion Pack aimed at addressing weaker areas in order to prepare students for their culminating writing task.

## Week 9: Culminating Writing Task

Assign **The Tell-Tale Heart** in Spot Check as a culminating writing task to check on the students' progress on the skills of this unit of study.

