

## Escape Writing: Nine Open Creative Prompts

*Sometimes, we write to mentally escape when we physically cannot. Imagination is a powerful tool to explore possibilities, minimize worry, and create something new. These nine prompts can work to inspire nine separate flash pieces, or one interlocking piece of longer fiction. Follow them to escape the normal and indulge your imagination.*

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### **Prompt #1 of 9: DOOR**

You are at home, rummaging around the closet, trying to find your favorite sweatshirt that's gone missing. Suddenly, at the back of the closet, you notice a door. You have no idea how it's possible that you never noticed it before. Something tells you that if you open that door, you might end up in another time, or maybe another world. You can see a faint purple glow seeping through the edges. You hear incredible sounds behind the door. You can't resist--you open it. Describe what happens next.

### **Prompt #2 of 9: BIRD**

Walking along, you look up to see an extraordinary bird. It flies gracefully, silently, almost like a ghost. As you watch it, you think you hear the voice of someone talking nearby, but when you look around, nobody is there. You realize what you hear is not a voice, but the thoughts of the bird flying overhead. What does the bird look like? What does its voice sound like? What is it saying? What do you do next?

### **Prompt #3 of 9: RIVER**

You come to a river. The water behaves strangely. First it is barely moving. It's so beautiful that you want to admire it. You sit and watch the shadows on its surface with barely a ripple. But then, minute by minute, the stillness turns to a strong flow moving faster and faster until it's raging with rapids. You need to get across the river. Describe the steps you take to attempt to make it to the other side.

#### **Prompt #4 of 9: MACHINE**

There's a massive old machine sitting out in the middle of a field. You can't tell quite what it's for, but it's obvious that it's been there for a long time. You find some folks around and ask what it is, but each one of them dodges your questions and tells you not to ask about it anymore. Your curiosity grows. You decide to find out for yourself, and set out into the field after nightfall. What happens?

#### **Prompt #5 of 9: LETTER**

Looks like there's some weather coming, so you button up your jacket. When you do, you feel something pressing into your ribcage. You check the inner pocket and find a thick envelope folded in half. It's sealed, but blank on the outside. When, or who was this from? You tear it open and find a letter. What does it say?

#### **Prompt #6 of 9: MELODY**

There's music coming from somewhere, but you're not exactly sure where. You keep walking toward the sound and start to recognize the song; it's one you've heard hundreds of times before. You smile. You come up over a hill and see where the sound is coming from. What do you see? What song is playing? What do you do next?

#### **Prompt #7 of 9: COLOR**

You meet a person who tells you that they actually used to be a color (you know, like green, magenta, goldenrod, turquoise...) Because of an accidental supernatural circumstance, they turned from a color into a human embodiment of the color's essence. What color did this person used to be? What do they look like? What is their personality like? Do they miss being a color, or do they like having a body?

#### **Prompt #8 of 9: FEAST**

It is evening and a feast is being prepared. It is the most unbelievable spread of food you've ever seen together at one time, and it is bountiful enough to feed everyone sitting at the long table. The table itself is magnificent, with beautifully arranged dishes. Who are the people sitting at the table? What food is there and how is it served? What do you eat first, middle, and last?

**Prompt #9 of 9: FAREWELL**

You're setting out on a new journey. You aren't leaving for good, but you'll be gone a while before you return. You pack up your bags, which are so heavy you laugh at yourself as you waddle with them down the dock to the boat that will take you on the first leg of your journey. What's the weather like? Where are you going? What do you plan to do there?