

Circle Prompts for 4th - 6th Grades

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COMMUNITY BUILDING CIRCLES

Questions for Getting Acquainted ¹

Share a happy childhood memory.

If you could be a superhero, which superpower would you choose and why?

How would your best friend describe you?

What would you NOT want to change about your life? Why?

If you had an unexpected free day and could do anything you wished, what would you do?

If you were an animal, what type would you be and why?

What is a memory you have of time spent in nature?

Who do you respect, and why?

What is it like for you when someone is angry at you?

Getting Acquainted ^{2, p. 70}

What are three “gifts” (attributes of yourself) that you bring to the circle?

If you were a reporter, what kind of stories would you like to write about?

What do you think other people see as your best quality? Why?

What is the silliest thing that ever happened to you?

What is the best thing that happened to you this past week?

What was the most difficult or challenging thing that happened to you this week?

Getting Acquainted ³

Name two things or people who always make you laugh.

I like to collect...

If you could have a face-to-face conversation with anyone, who would it be and why?

Describe your ideal job.

Describe your favorite vacation.

If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

What is your favorite place in the world? Why?

Something I am looking forward to . . . (this weekend, this school year, this Christmas/New Year)

Favorites^{4, p. 4}

1. My favorite TV program is...
2. My favorite book is...
3. My favorite computer game/video game is...
4. My favorite food is...
5. My favorite meal is...
6. My favorite time of the year is...
7. My favorite person in my family is...
8. My favorite TV/movie star is...
9. My favorite singer/performer is...
10. My favorite time at school is...
11. My favorite time is...
12. My favorite game to play is...
13. My favorite things to do with my friends is...
14. My favorite possession is...
15. My favorite toy is...
16. My favorite place in my house is...
17. My favorite place to go is...
18. My favorite type of weather is...
19. My favorite thing to wear is...

Values²

What is your passion?

What touches your heart?

What gives you hope?

What demonstrates respect?

What change would you like to see in your community?

What can you do to promote that change?

Share a time when you acted on your core values even though others did not.

Something I learned about myself recently.

What would you do if you had no fear?

Values³

What is something you value about your family? Why?

What is something you value about yourself? Why?

What is something that you are thankful for? Why?

Talk about something that you want and something that you need. What is the difference?

What have you learned about power? What does it mean to you?

What have you learned about work? What does it mean to you?

What have you learned about money? What does it mean to you?

Self-Awareness²

What does stress look like for you?

How do you relieve stress?

Talk about a time when you felt like it was hard to be happy. How did you get through it?

Do you think that you're an introvert or an extrovert? How does this effect how you respond to stress?

What are some ways we can relieve stress in our classroom?

What would you do with 1 million dollars?

Self-Awareness/Self-Knowledge ^{4, p. 3}

One way I am different from other students is...

One way I am the same as other students is...

... is important to me.

Someone I hope to be like is... (because)...

I am worried by...

The kind of person I look up to is...

I am not pleased with myself when...

A time I was brave was...

A fear I have overcome was...

A fear I would like to overcome is...

I worry about ...

If I was President of the United States, I would...

If I could make changes in this world, I would...

Something that makes me sad/happy/miserable/angry is...

Something I would like to do again is...

Something I will never do again is...

Something I avoid doing is...

When kids make mistakes, teachers should...

Personal Skills ^{4, p. 5}

I like myself least when...

I like myself when...

At home I am good at...

In school I am good at...

I like doing...

At home, I am not very good at...

At school I am not very good at...

I dislike doing...

Something I like doing but am not very good at is...

Something I had to work hard to learn was ...

Something I am proud of...

Feelings^{4, p. 4}

Today I feel...

I feel... about myself.

I feel... about circles.

I feel... about the future...

I feel... about this school/school rules.

I feel... about adults/teachers.

I feel good about....

I feel bad about...

I feel... about my name.

I feel... about war/drugs/peace/stealing/bullying/pollution/violence/ environmental issues/cars.

I feel good/happy/pleased when...

I feel sad/bad/unhappy/angry/miserable when...

A time I felt afraid was... and it was not fun.

When I first came to this school, I felt...

New experiences/the unknown makes me feel...

I feel powerless when...

I feel helpless when...

I feel lonely when...

... makes me feel happy/sad/pleased OR helpless/angry/miserable.

I feel concerned for...

Making decisions makes me feel...

If I make a mistake, I feel...

If someone else makes a mistake, I feel...

Feelings²

My favorite weather is...

Rain makes me feel...

Wind makes me feel...

Sunshine makes me feel...

Snow makes me feel...

Fog makes me feel...

Today I feel...

When I think of blue, I think of...

When I think of red, I think of...

When I think of green, I think of...

When I think of yellow, I think of...

When I think of black, I think of...

When I think of brown, I think of...

When I think of white, I think of...

If I were an animal, I would be...

If I were a famous actor/actress, I would be ...

If I were a famous athlete, I would be...

When I graduate from high school, I want to ...

When I become an adult, I want to...

I can't wait until...

Friends are ...

Families are...

Putdowns make me feel...

Appreciations make me feel...

What gives you hope?

How do you feel about bullying?

Say something nice about the person to your right.

How does it feel when someone is angry at you?

Family ^{4, p. 2}

The way I show my family I'm angry is...

Something I admire about one of my parent(s)/guardian(s)...

A good time I had with my family was...

The thing I admire about my sibling (cousin, etc.) is....

The thing that annoys me most about my sibling (cousin, etc.) is...

When I'm on my own, I prefer to...

When I argue with my parents, they...

When I argue with my parents, I...

When I argue with my siblings, I...

Something I rely on my family for is...

Friendship ^{4, p. 1}

A friend is...

A quality I look for in a friend is...

Something I like to do with a group of friends is...

Something I like to do with my best friend is...

The sort of person I would trust is...

The sort of people I like best are...

I respect friends who...

If a friend has deceived me...

The way I show my friends I'm angry is...

I laugh with my friends about

Something my friends do that makes me laugh is...

The kind of behavior I would expect from my friends towards me is...

I feel let down by friends when ...

The sort of friend I believe I am is...

With my friends I see myself mainly as a leader or as a follower.

I would not help my friends if...

The most difficult thing about making a new friend is...

In the past, a time I felt left out was...

In the past, I left someone out by...

Community ^{4. p. 2}

The person I most admire in school is....

The person I most admire in my community is...

At home the sort of person I am is...

With my friends, the sort of person I am is...

With teachers, the sort of person I am is...

I wish teachers would...

The sort of teachers I admire are...

One thing I would like to change about this school is...

One thing I would like to change about this class is...

The best thing about where I live is...

The worst thing about where I live is...

Wishes^{4, p. 3}

I wish I could...

If I had three wishes...

A hobby I wish I could do is...

A sport I wish I could do is...

A place I wish I could visit is...

Someone I wish I could meet is...

Something I wish I could do is...

Something I wish for my family is...

Something I wish for my class is...

Something I wish for my school is...

I wish my parents would let me...

LEARNING CIRCLES

Literature²

What did you think about the first few pages?

What did you choose to write about?

Pick a character you just read about, how do you think that character feels?

What does that character see, hear, smell, touch or taste? How does this make you feel?

Have you ever been through an experience like the characters in this book? Please give an example or explain.

Do you feel like you understand the reading more after listening to classmates' opinions?

How do you feel after reading the first chapter?

How interested are you in reading the next chapter?

On a scale of 1-10 (1-not at all to 10-ready to read it now!), how interested are you in reading the next chapter?

What predictions can you make?

What do you think will happen next?

What part in Chapter 1 is relevant to real life?

What is the author trying to say in the first chapter?

Do you feel like the discussion increased your understanding of the text? Why or why not?

Poetry²

Is there a particular line or phrase in the poem that you like the most? Which one? Why?

What are your thoughts after reading and analyzing the poem?

How do you feel after reading the poem?

Do you enjoy reading or writing poetry? Why or why not? Questions, comments, concerns?

What is imagery?

Why do authors use imagery when writing?

Share an example of imagery used in this poem.

How does this line add meaning to the poem?

How do you like this poem?

On a scale of 1-10 (1-not at all to 10-I love it), how much do you like this poem?

Sources:

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4. *Perry Finch Circle Prompts*, https://acsw.org/conference/2013/NOLA/Perry-Finch_Circle_Prompts.pdf Adapted from *Developing Circle Time* by Bliss, Robinson, and Maines, January 2002.