

Writing Prompts for Teens

12 WRITING PROMPTS TO
SPARK IDEAS FOR A YEAR



A TEEN WRITING JOURNAL

Writing for Kids
Volume II

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A note for parents:

I created this guided journal for all the teens out there who love to write. Inside, you'll find writing exercises, prompts, advice on creating great fiction, and art pages to spark storytelling visually.

It's suitable for children between the ages of 13 and 18. After that, they move on to bigger things.

I'd love to read the stories! Share them on my Facebook page:

facebook.com/WriteJoMichaels

I hope your teens enjoy this book, and I hope you hang on to it as a keepsake from their youth.

Writing Prompts for Teens
12 Writing Prompts to Spark Ideas for a Year
A Teen Writing Journal
by Jo Michaels

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Read me before you begin!

Hey there! Are the parents gone yet? *shifty eyes* Awesome! So, let me tell you a little about what's going on in this book. I know, I know, but stay with me, okay?

Chances are, if you're holding this journal, you've decided you want to find a way to create your stories comfortably—and with a little help. Well, either that, or you have someone in your life who wants you to be able to do so.

This isn't a book that'll cause poetry to magically spout from your brain—or your boyfriend/girlfriend's mouth—it's about learning to craft a story the fun way. I'll give you a prompt, ask you some questions, and then turn you loose to be your own kind of creative. I'm not going to go on and on about rules and such stuff. It's not about that. You're just writing.

We're going to start with what you might find a strange exercise, but it'll help in the long run (I promise).

Don't worry about spelling or punctuation, just get the story on the page, ok?

I know it's in there; let's get it out, shall we?

When you're ready to edit (if you choose to do so), head to my blog at <http://jomichaels.blogspot.com> for some awesome tips and tricks.

If you're feeling something, anything, that's a great place for any story to begin; even if you're overwhelmed by the size and pressure of the task ahead. This exercise will help you draw on emotions as you write later. I'm having you do this at least five times because it's that important.

Here's what I want you to do:

- Think about how you're feeling in this moment.
- Write that word at the top of the page in the space provided.
- Below it, write the first cliché that pops into your head (angry = mad as a mashed cat).
- On the thirty lines that follow, write other things that describe how angry feels.

I know what you're thinking: *Thirty, Jo? Thirty! You must be crazy.*

But I'm not. *grin* Well, not certifiably, anyway. If you stick with it, expand upon your few word descriptions to great phrases. I'll get to when and where this will come in handy in the next paragraph. I think it goes without saying that I don't want you to worry about being grammatically correct. Just let it flow.

Let me go with ***depressed*** as an example.

- Empty nest
- Wrapped in a shroud
- In a dark place
- If the world explodes, I'll be one lucky bastard
- Rocks in my stomach
- Lead weights on my shoulders
- Fog obscuring my every thought
- Windows blackened so I can't see daylight
- As though a bat has wrapped me in leathery wings, stealing my breath
- Tiny and insignificant
- If I weren't around, no one would notice or care
- Numb all over
- Brain in a cloud that prevents me from thinking happy thoughts, as though I'll never find joy again
- Everyone is out to get me because I'm like the buzzing fly puking my acid on their food so I can slurp it up in my misery of short life
- Desire to step out of my mortal shell and walk where I might get a glimpse of the light my heart craves but has been denied for so long
- Scum on the top of a pond that only exists to be feasted on by parasitic insects determined to suck every ounce of nourishment out of me to feed themselves
- Hands shaking, brain racing, heart dead and unfeeling
- Life sucked out of me through a hole in my heart made, ripped, and gaping because of the cruelty of the people in my life

- A dark cloak descending from the sky, fluttering down delicately, inviting me in, promising me warmth and safety, only to choke me when I accepted its black embrace that siphoned the will to live
- Blank stares filled with thoughts of everything lost throughout the years is all my mind can focus on
- Tingles rushing through my fingers, up my arms, twining around my heart as they beg me to let go of my own soul; to free my spirit so it can glide away through the ether, leaving me in peaceful nothingness
- Weight pressing down on me, and a twenty-ton monkey on my back who insists on dragging me the wrong way—away from the success, happiness, and assurance I crave
- Back cramps that slowly make their way around my ribs, creating pressure on my abdomen I can't release, suffocating me as my breath is stolen and my lung capacity closing down inch by inch
- Heat in my head threatening to burst forth from my eyes in the form of tears I'm convinced will be crimson if allowed to flow
- No desire to move, breathe, or think as my senses shut down, one by one, leaving me bereft
- Every reflection of myself making me want to lash out at the person on the other side, because I know she's worth nothing

You don't have to stop there. Keep going until you can't. This is just to show you it can be done. It only took me about twenty minutes, so it's not a terribly time-consuming exercise. Yeah, I'm feeling a little depressed right now. Why? Because I had to step into it to make it come out. What I'm asking you to do is write about it when you're feeling it. You can probably see the progression above, yeah?

Now, I bet you're wondering how this can help you in your writing, huh?

This is the awesome part. If you ever need a way to describe how a depressed character is feeling, you just created more than twenty-five descriptions of depression you can copy and paste into your manuscript. Never just say your character was feeling depressed. Use what you know to bring that feeling to life on the page for your reader.

It can also help you by becoming an outlet, like a journal, where you know you can write stuff down honestly. If you get it out, it'll help you deal with those feelings in a positive manner.

Don't just write about being sad, depressed, or overwhelmed. Be sure you're sitting down to fill out pages for happiness, excitement, or curiosity. You need everything in your writing arsenal.

Now GO! *grin* Have some fun with it! Just don't use the clichés when you write!

Word: _____

Cliché: _____

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

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Word: _____

Cliché: _____

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Now let's move on to the writing stuff!

Prompt 1:

Your main character just found his/her crazy aunt tied up and gagged.

Why?

Who did it?

Where is she?

What happened to the character's sane uncle?

Because I'm me, we're approaching these stories as character driven—not focusing on the world, just those creatures that live there. If you want more on world-building, go to my blog and download the free PDF titled: A Novel Checklist. Let's get rolling!

CHARACTERS



FULL NAME

- First:

- Middle:

- Last:

- Any other names they've had throughout life:



LOCATION

- Where they live now:

- Where they were born:

- Why it changed, if it did:

📄 **AGE**

- Birthday:

- Zodiac sign:

- Recent celebrations and events:

📄 **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

- Height:

- Weight:

- Hair color:

- Eye color:

- Shoe size:

- Skin color:

- Manicure?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Pedicure?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Hair length:

-
- Eyebrows (V shaped, bushy, pencil thin, etc...):

-
- Identifying marks:

-
- Bra size (for women):
-

GOALS

- Ultimate life goal:
-

CAREER

- What they do:
-

- What they want to do:
-

- Skills:
-

MENTAL DESCRIPTION

☐ Self-centered

☐ Egotistical

☐ Timid

☐ Brash

☐ Vengeful

☐ Something else:

-
- Reason(s) for mental description:
-
-
-
-

FRIENDS

- Close to these people:

- Major characters:

- Minor characters:

- Plot changing characters:

RELATIONSHIPS

- Spouse(s)
☐ Names and ages:

- Kid(s)
☐ Names and ages:

- Parents
☐ Names and ages:

OTHER STUFF

- Magical Powers:

- How they were obtained:

- Sexual orientation:

- When this was realized:

- How this was realized:

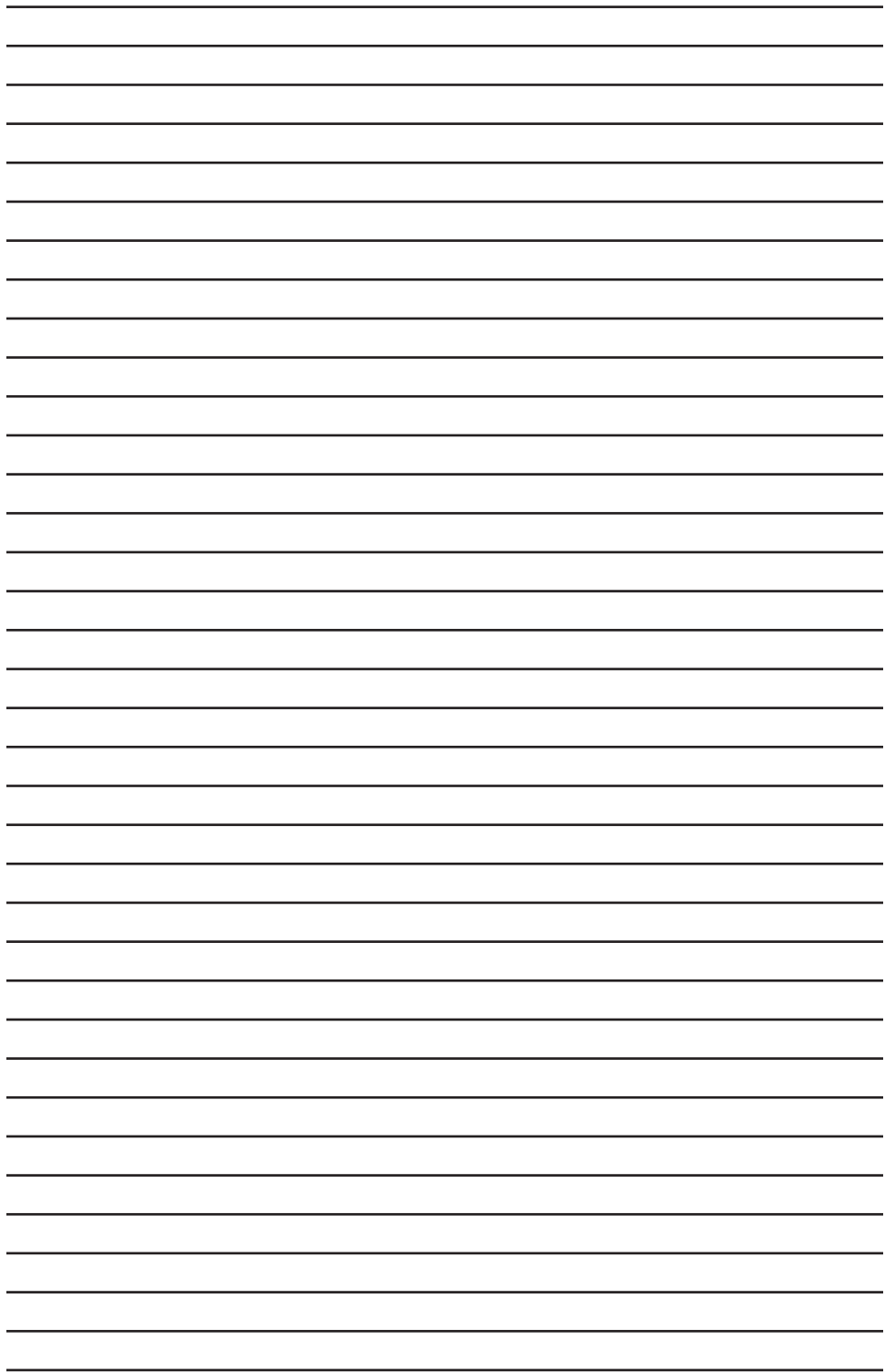
- What they do for fun:

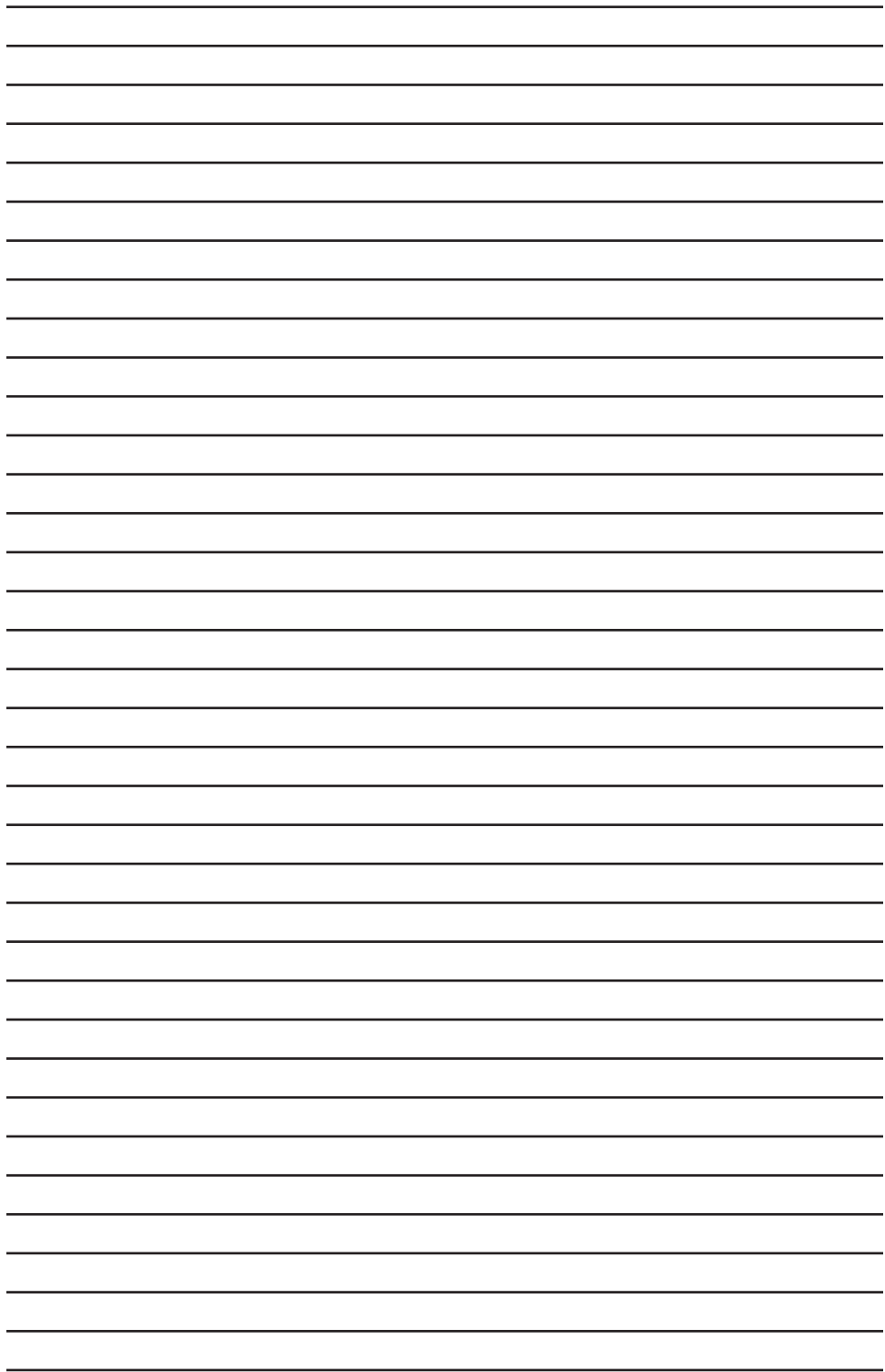
- Major flaws:

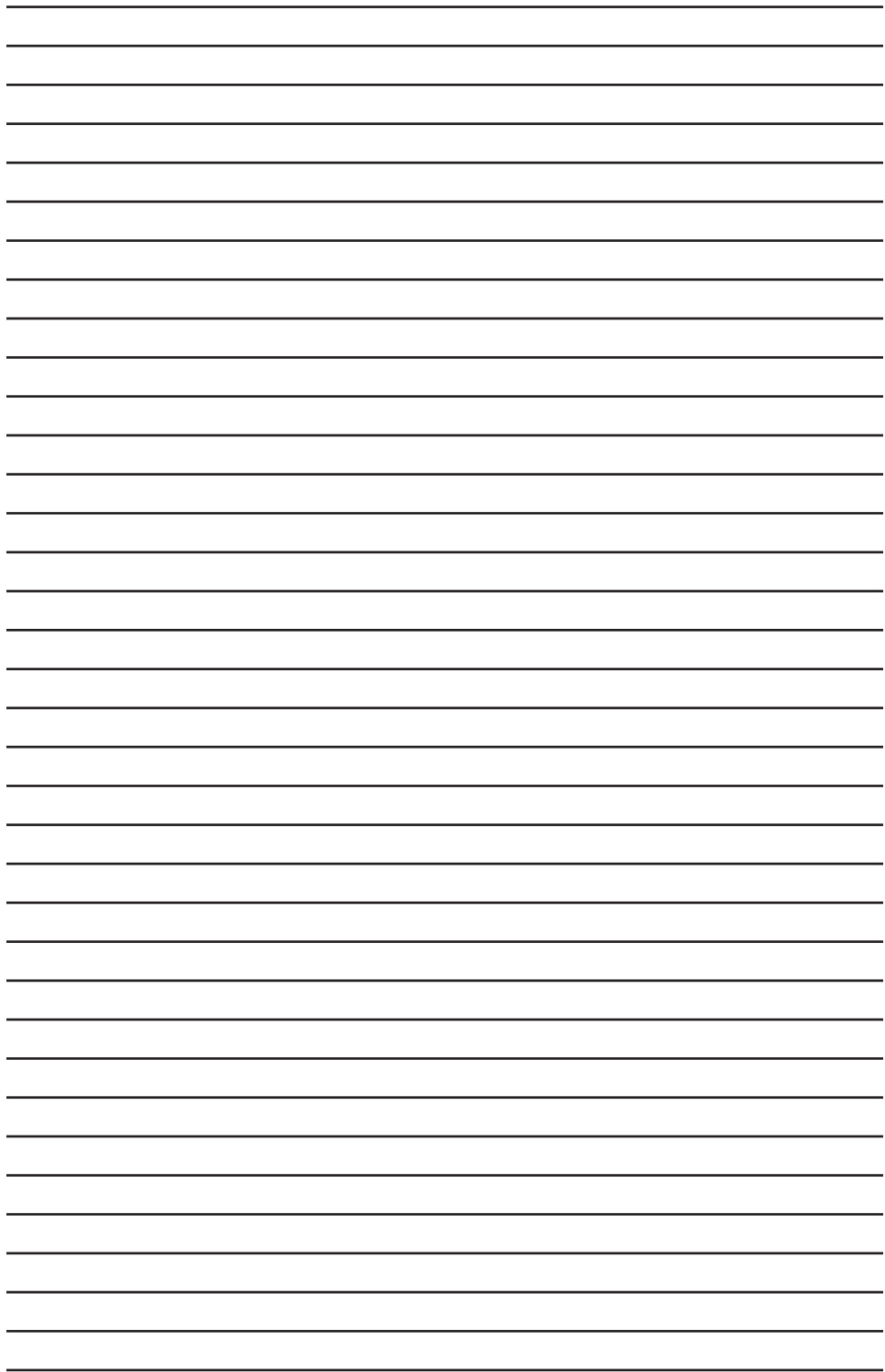
- Change undergone:

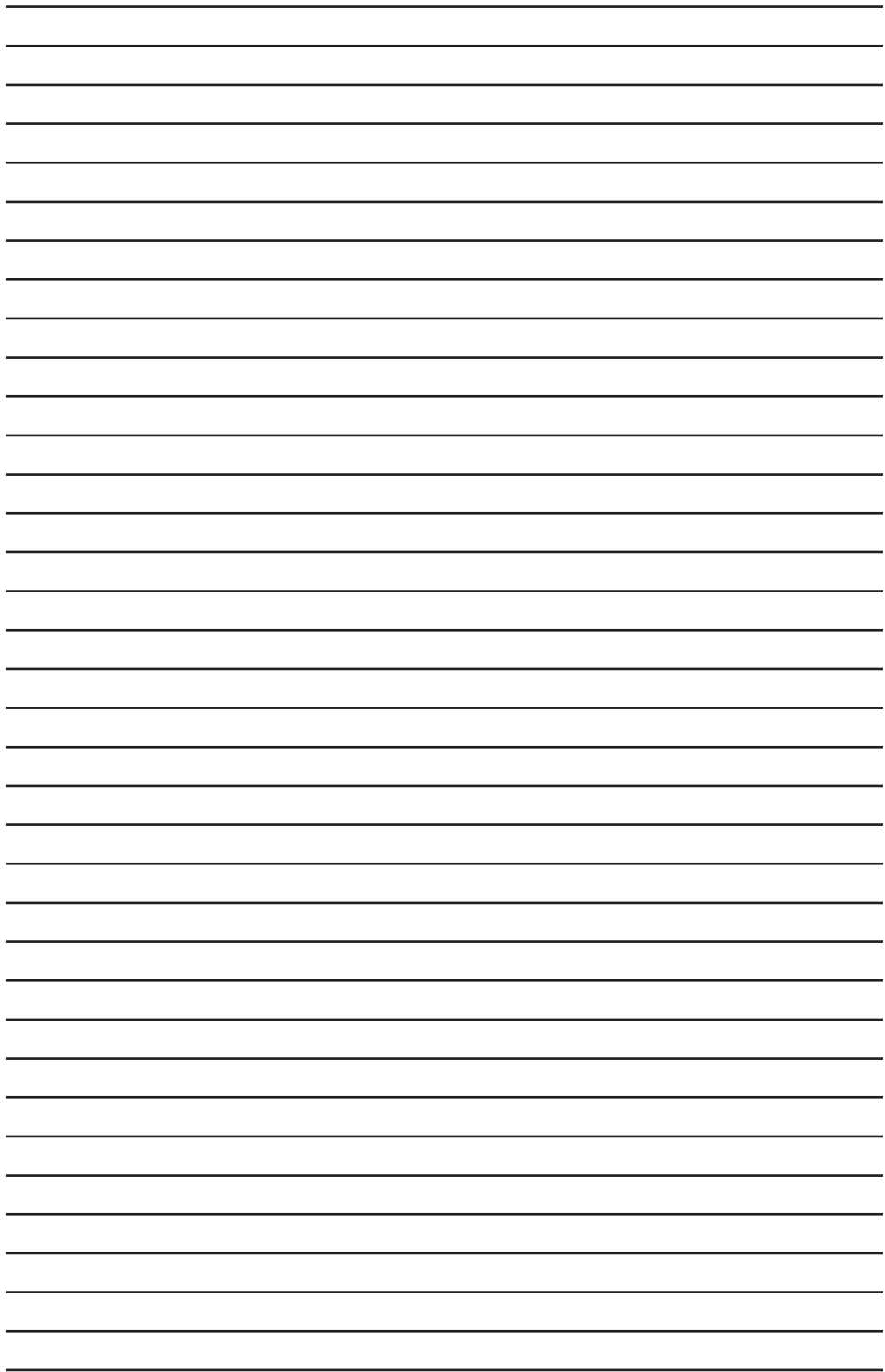
- Why they struggled through the doorway of change:

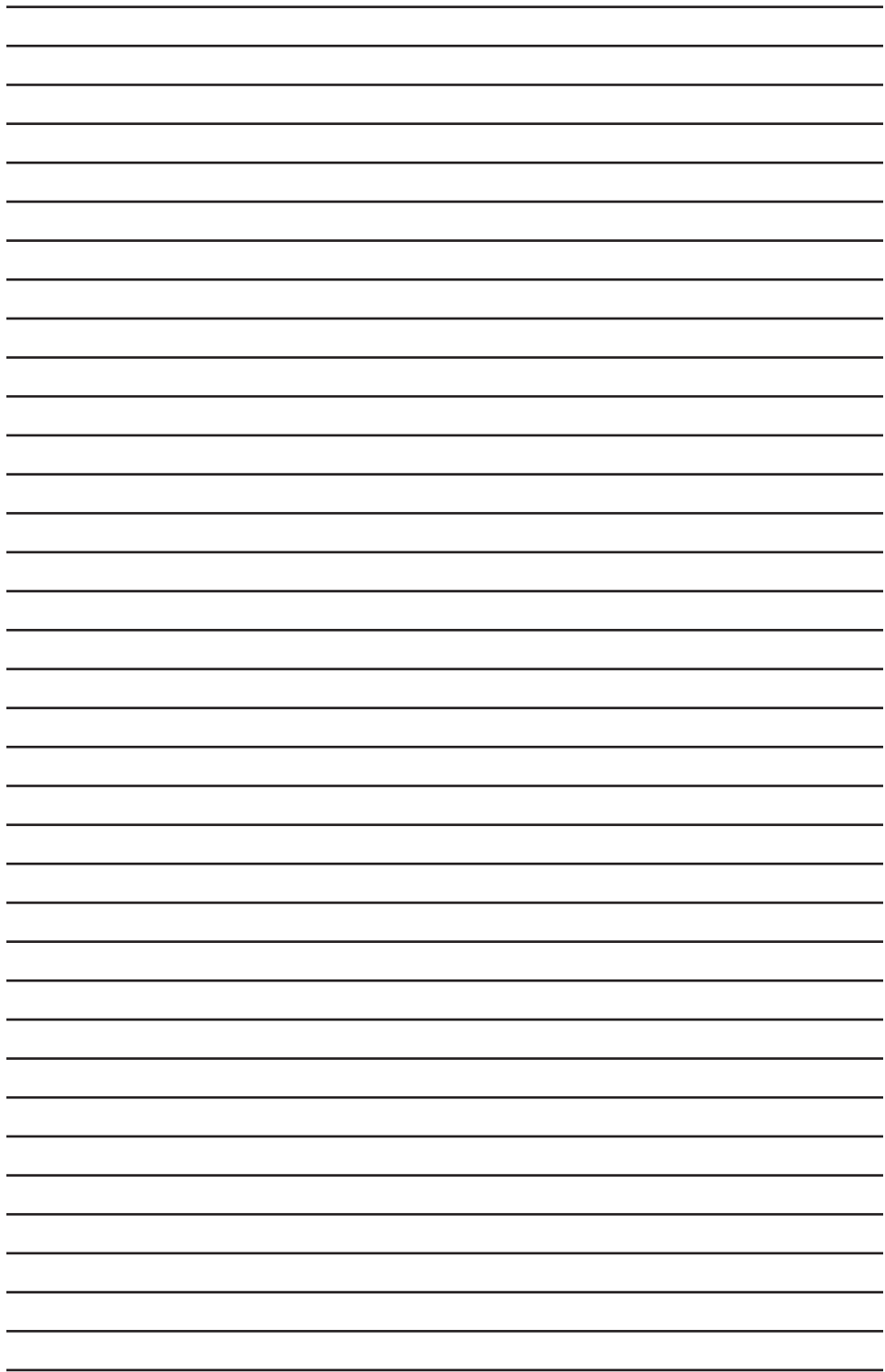
On the next page, your story begins! Get going!

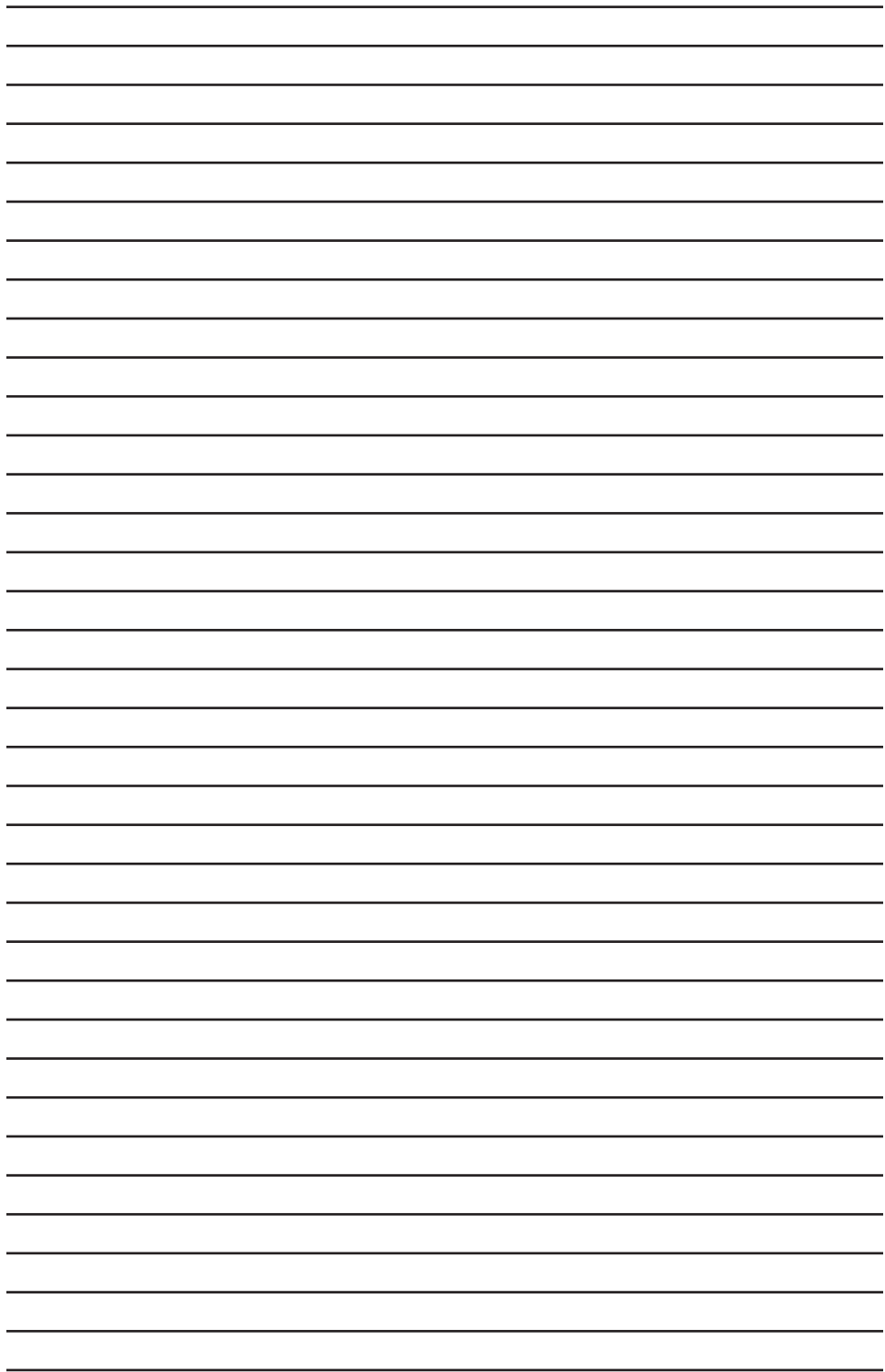


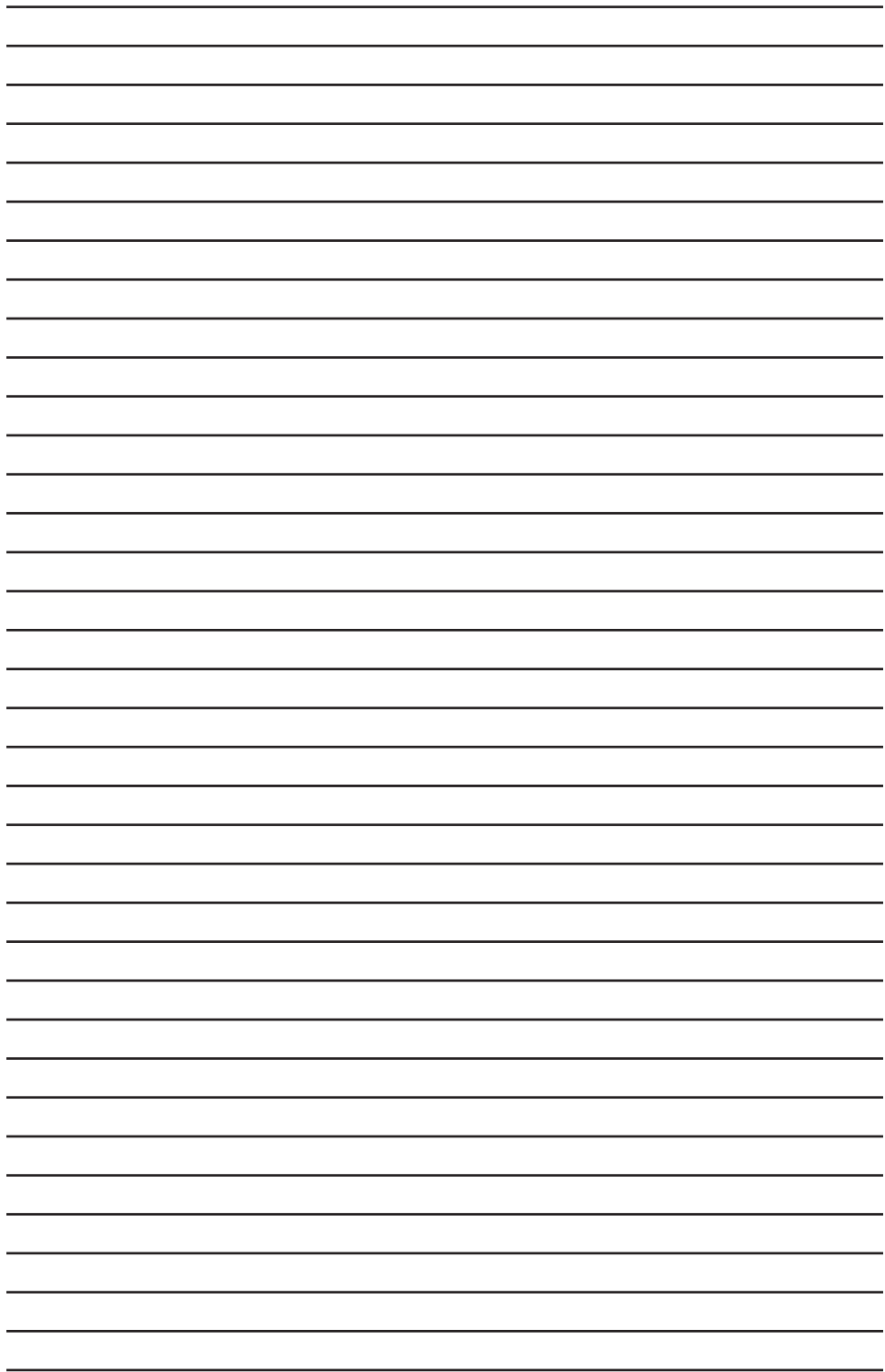


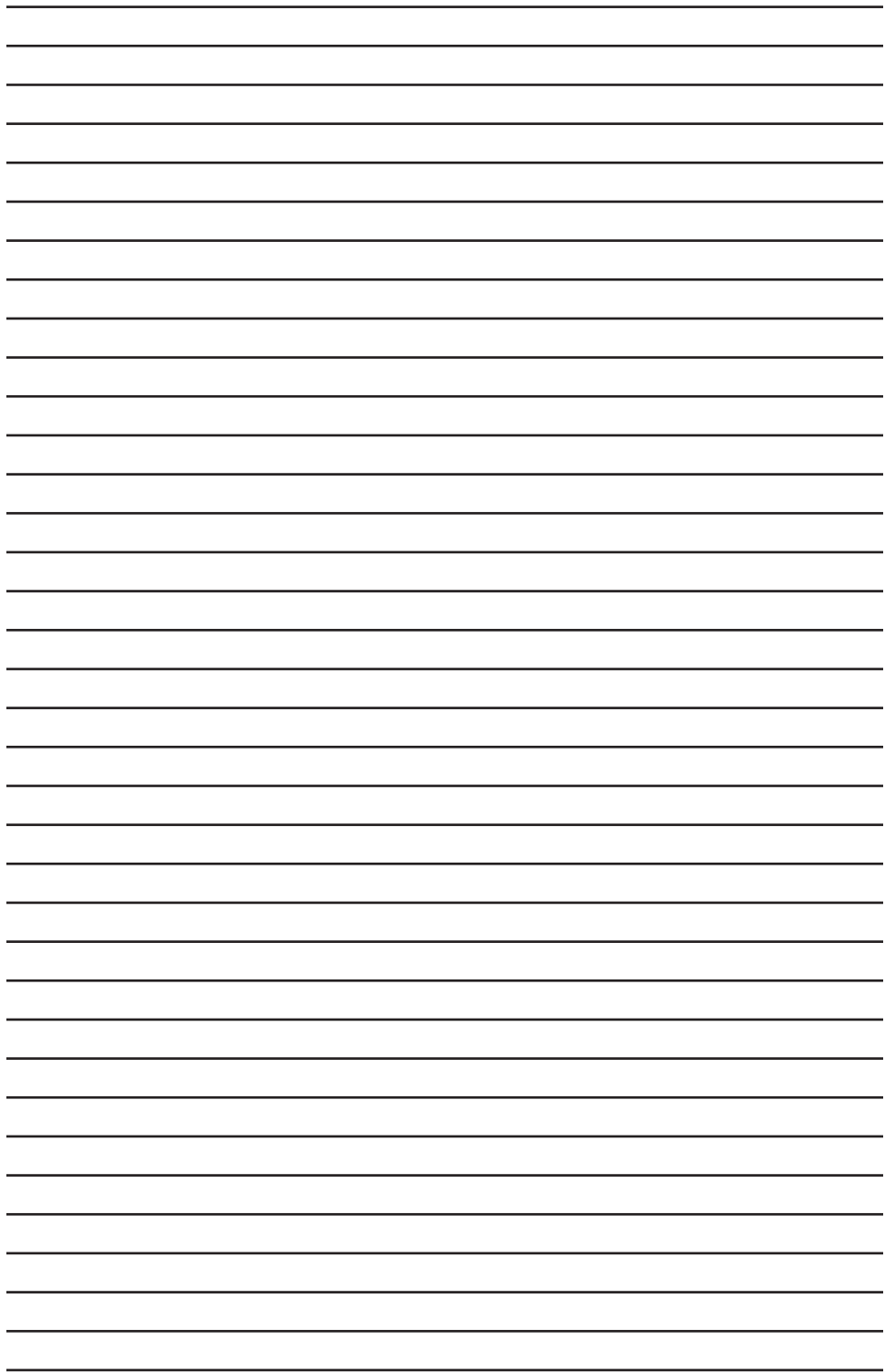












Pause for a moment, and answer the following questions:

How has my character surprised me so far?

What can I do to surprise my reader right now?

Is there anyone not integral to the story that I need to get rid of?

Have any of my secondary characters tried to take over?

Unicorns! (kidding—unless it works with the story)

How am I going to wrap this story up?

