

Mining Your Gifted Students' Lives: Writing Rich Short Stories

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Getting to Know You—the Author

Directions: Writing an honest description of yourself will prepare you to portray a fictional character. Answer as many questions as you can, writing down the first response that comes to mind. (Similes and metaphors are welcome!) Afterwards, pick one section and write a concise paragraph summarizing your answers.

Section A: Physical Phenomena

1. I am as tall as _____.
2. My hair looks like _____.
3. When people look at me they think that I _____.
4. My face looks like _____.
5. My greatest physical asset is _____.
6. My eyes look like _____.

Section B: Stuff about School

1. In school I like _____.
2. In school I hate _____.
3. My greatest academic challenge in school is _____.
4. The best thing about getting a good grade is _____.
5. The worst thing about getting a bad grade is _____.
6. My greatest fear in school is _____.
7. My favorite grade in school was _____ because _____.
8. After school I like to _____.
9. One thing I would change about school is _____
because _____.

Section C: Getting Personal

1. My biggest fear is _____.
2. The most exciting thing that I have ever done is _____.
3. I hate _____.
4. I am the most organized when _____.
5. The biggest mess in my life is _____.

6. My greatest accomplishment so far is _____.
7. My biggest dream is to _____.
8. I am looking forward to _____.
9. The most recent fad that I followed is _____.
10. I got in trouble when I _____.

Section D: What's My Fighting Style?

1. When I fight with a friend, I:
 - a) try to pretend that there is nothing wrong between the two of us
 - b) sulk until my friend makes up with me
 - c) get angry and not talk to him or her
 - d) apologize and take the blame
 - e) don't trust her again
 - f) try to solve the problem
2. When I get mad at my parents I:
 - a) trash them to my friends
 - b) go to my room and listen to music
 - c) don't do something which they ask me to do
 - d) try to talk to them
 - e) get sarcastic
 - f) find something wrong about them
 - g) ignore them

Section E: Uniquely Me (Hint: Try to think of a specific situation)

1. When I get nervous, I _____.
2. When I feel angry, I _____.
3. When I am excited, I _____.
4. When I am bored I _____.
5. When I am I embarrassed I _____.

6. When I have a secret I _____.

7. My favorite expression is _____.

Section F: Real Relationships

1. What I wish I knew about boys:
2. What I wish I knew about girls:
3. What I wish my parents understood about me:
4. If I could change one thing about my family it would be:
5. The qualities I value most in a friend:

Section G: The Tough Ones

1. What advice would I give someone a year younger than myself?
2. Has someone ever asked me to do something wrong? What was my response?
3. What concerns me most about myself?

4. What do I wish others would think about me?

5. What worries me most about growing up?

6. What would I like to change about myself?

7. What would I like more than anything else in the world?

8. And I'm not going to get it because:

