

STAAR prompts that would easily accompany the fairy tale stories.

Lesson	More Concrete (typical of grade 4 STAAR)	More Abstract (typical of grades 7, 9, 10 STAAR)
1. First impressions	Write an essay about something that surprised you about someone you met.	Write an essay about first impressions.
2. Family	Write an essay explaining the best thing about a family.	Write an essay about what a family provides to an individual.
3. Hardships	Write an essay about doing something difficult.	Write an essay about different kinds of difficulties people face.
4. Power of words	Write an essay about something someone said to you that made you feel good.	Write an essay about the impact that words can have on people
5. Gratitude	Write an essay about a person you are grateful for.	Write an essay about how people react when they feel grateful.
6. Peer pressure	Write an essay about a place where you can truly relax and be yourself.	Write an essay about how hard it is to disagree with a group.
7. Greed/happiness	Write an essay about something you wish for.	Write an essay about whether it's better to try to achieve more or to be happy with what you have.
8. Selfishness	Write an essay about the best way to make a friend.	Write an essay about how people can benefit from everyone nearby us, even from selfish people.
9. Confidence	Write an essay about someone you consider a real success.	Write an essay about how a person's attitude can cause success or failure.
10. Laughter	Write an essay about something that makes you laugh.	Write an essay about the importance of laughter in our lives.
11. Listening	Write an essay about someone who listens to you.	Write an essay about the importance of listening.
12. Fear	Write an essay about something that used to scare you, but which doesn't scare you now.	Write an essay about public fear.
13. Stealing	Write an essay about someone who helps your family survive.	Write an essay about whether stealing is every justifiable.
14. Generosity	Write an essay about someone who has helped you/someone you have helped.	Write an essay about what happens to people who are generous to others.
15. Distractions	Write an essay about your favorite way to spend time.	Write an essay about how distractions in your path can help you or hurt you.
16. Love	Write an essay about something or someone you love.	Write an essay about pure and simple love.
17. Humiliation	Write an essay about a person who makes you feel proud of yourself.	Write an essay about the effects of humiliation.
18. Tests	Write an essay about an unusual test you remember taking.	Write an essay about how to tell if a test is fair.
19. Reputation	Write an essay about something positive that someone	Write an essay about people's power to shape our own

	has said about you.	reputations.
20. Companionship	Write an essay about something you like to do with friends.	Write an essay about how much companionship is too much.
21. Promises	Write an essay a promise you have made.	Write an essay about how hard it can be to keep a promise.
22. Gifts	Write an essay about a favorite gift someone has given you.	Write an essay about how even negative gifts can add to our lives.
23. Mistakes	Write an essay about a mistake someone made.	Write an essay about a bad choice that turned out well.
24. Kindness	Write an essay about a person you think is very kind.	Write an essay about how people react to kindness in different ways.
25. Manners	Write an essay about someone with good manners.	Write an essay about the importance of using good manners.
26. Groups	Write an essay about a group you are glad you belong to.	Write an essay about what causes groups to stick together or fall apart.
27. Cutting corners	Write an essay about a shortcut you have discovered, while doing some task.	Write an essay to discuss the benefits and/or dangers of taking shortcuts.
28. Information	Write an essay about something you would like to learn more about.	Write an essay about the importance of knowledge.
29. Place	Write an essay about a place where you feel happy.	Write an essay about what it takes to be happy.
30. Friendship	Write an essay about a person you consider a friend.	Write an essay about the difficulty of trusting friendships.
31. Home	Write an essay about a home you would like to have.	Write an essay about the meaning of "home."
32. Mystery	Write an essay about something that you proved to someone.	Write an essay about the importance of proof.
33. Humility	Write an essay about someone who is kind to everyone.	Write an essay about how our imperfections can become our strengths.
34. Perseverance	Write an essay about someone who did not give up.	Write an essay to explain what perseverance looks like.
35. Deception	Write an essay about the best kind of advice to take.	Write an essay about the dangers of ignoring warnings.