



Connecting Waters Charter Schools

Instructional Practice and Benchmark Assessment
Prompt Schedule 2025-26
(Grades 4-12)

Instructional Practice Prompts

- Instruction and practice are encouraged before the benchmark assessment. Writing and revising the practice prompts based on feedback from the domain scores, MY Tutor, and MY Editor are key to completing the benchmark assessments. Focused revisions help students improve their writing and increase their scores, as practice essays can be resubmitted several times.
- Outlines, rough drafts, and revisions are strongly encouraged on all instructional practice assignments.
- Students may consult [Benchmark Essay Booklets](#) or [Writing Prompt Topics](#) for more information.

Dates	August - October	November - December	January - February	March - April
Genres	Informative	Narrative	Informative	Narrative
Number of Practice Prompts	Prompt #1 August 11 - September 19, 2025 Prompt #2 October 6- October 31, 2025	Prompt #1 November 3 - 28, 2025 Prompt #2 December 1 - 19, 2025	Prompt #1 January 6 - February 20, 2026 Prompt #2 No 2nd Practice Prompt	Prompt #1 March 9- May 22, 2026 Prompt #2 No 2nd Practice Prompt
MY Access Practice Prompts Grades 4 & 5	1. A Hard Choice 2. Kevin's Cast	1. Continue the Story (The Wild Robot) 2. Unlikely Animal Friends	1. "Like Mother, Like Son"	1. The International Space Station
MY Access Practice Prompts Grades 6-8	1. Interpretation of Maya Angelo's "Human Family" 2. "Echo & Narcissus"	1. Family Outing 2. Climbing Mount Everest	1. "The Tree" by Sarah Orne Jewett	1. Hiking in the Grand Canyon
MY Access Practice Prompts Grades 9-12	1. Analysis of a Prose Passage: Ralph Waldo Emerson 2. I'm Nobody! Who are You?	1. Excerpt from "The Great Gatsby" 2. Smoke-filled Sky	1. Narrator in "The Scarlet Ibis"	1. Ruby Bridges' Walks to School

Benchmark Assessment Prompts

- Students select **one** of the two benchmark options to complete
- During the assessment, students may use the MY Access! loadable outline and other tools
- Students can only "submit" once, but they can "save and finish later" multiple times within one week, and the 2-hour revising/editing period
- A 2-hour timer will be set

Genre || Informative

Benchmarks by Grade Level

<p>Dates:</p>	<p>Fall Semester September 22, 2025 - September 26, 2025</p> <hr/>		<p>Spring Semester February 23, 2026 - February 27, 2026</p> <hr/>	
<p>Grades 4 & 5</p>	<p>Option #1 What Really Happened to the Billy Goats Gruff</p> <p>Option #2 Character Study</p> <hr/>		<p>Option #1 Grandpa’s Garden</p> <p>Option #2 Great Aunt Judy</p> <hr/>	
<p>Grades 6-8</p>	<p>Option #1 Character Development "The Lottery Ticket " by Horatio Alger</p> <p>Option #2 "Names/Nombres" by Julia Alvarez</p> <hr/>		<p>Option #1 Beyond the Story’s Ending in “The Necklace”</p> <p>Option #2 "After Twenty Years" by O. Henry</p> <hr/>	
<p>Grades 9-12</p>	<p>Option #1 America’s First Road Trip</p> <p>Option #2 Comparing Characters in “Everyday Use”</p>		<p>Option #1 “The Story of an Eyewitness” by Jack London</p> <p>Option #2 “The Hiking Trip”</p>	
<p>Process</p>	<p>The student generates the essay in MY Access during the assessment window within the 2-hour writing timeframe. Scores are immediately available to the students and ES.</p>		<p>The student generates the essay in MY Access during the assessment window within the 2-hour writing timeframe. Scores are immediately available to the students and ES.</p>	