

A Year of Reading & Writing with National Day Classroom!

NationalDayClassroom.com

Week	National Day	Project Gutenberg Book Suggestion	Writing Prompt for Students
1	National Science Fiction Day (Jan 2)	<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley	Dr. Frankenstein abandoned his creation. Write a letter from the Creature to his creator, explaining what he needed and how his life could have been different.
2	National Static Electricity Day (Jan 9)	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Franklin famously experimented with a kite in a storm. Describe a modern "kite experiment" you would propose to solve a current scientific mystery.
3	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (3rd Mon in Jan)	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Douglass explains how literacy was his "pathway from slavery to freedom." Reflect on a time when learning something new felt liberating or empowering.
4	National Pie Day (Jan 23)	<i>The White House Cook Book</i>	Find a pie recipe in the cookbook. Imagine you are hosting a dinner for a historical figure. Describe the evening and why you chose that specific pie.
5	National Puzzle Day (Jan 29)	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes." Describe an "obvious" detail from your daily life that most people miss.
6	Groundhog Day (Feb 2)	<i>Walden; Or, Life in the Woods</i>	Thoreau went to the woods to "live deliberately." If you were to spend a season at your own Walden Pond, what would you hope to learn or unlearn?

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7	National Inventors' Day (Feb 11)	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Seas</i>	Captain Nemo's <i>Nautilus</i> is a marvel of invention. Design your own fantastic vehicle for exploring an uncharted part of our world (or another).
8	Valentine's Day (Feb 14)	<i>Sonnets by William Shakespeare</i>	Choose one of Shakespeare's sonnets and rewrite it in modern, everyday language. Does the meaning change?
9	Presidents' Day (3rd Mon in Feb)	<i>The Strenuous Life by Theodore Roosevelt</i>	Roosevelt argues for a life of "toil and effort." Argue for or against this idea. Is a life of ease and comfort less valuable?
10	National Fairy Tale Day (Feb 26)	<i>Grimms' Fairy Tales</i>	Take a classic fairy tale from the collection and write it from the villain's perspective. What was their motivation?
11	World Book Day (First Thurs in Mar)	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	If you had a portrait that aged for you, what choices would you make differently in your life? Describe the portrait after one year.
12	National Plant a Flower Day (Mar 12)	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	The secret garden transforms the children. Describe a place (real or imagined) that has a magical or healing effect on you.
13	Ides of March (Mar 15)	<i>Julius Caesar by Shakespeare</i>	Brutus says he acted "not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more." Write a defense of a difficult decision you've made, explaining your reasoning.
14	National Puppy Day (Mar 23)	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Buck must listen to his primal instincts to survive. Write about a

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			time you had to trust your gut feeling or intuition.
15	National Doctors' Day (Mar 30)	<i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	We all have a "Mr. Hyde" side to our personality. Write a short, fictional scene where your own inner Hyde makes a brief appearance.
16	April Fool's Day (Apr 1)	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	The characters invent people and situations to avoid obligations. Invent a humorous alter-ego for yourself and describe a day in their life.
17	National Library Week (Second week of Apr)	<i>Don Quixote</i> by Cervantes	Don Quixote's reading inspires his grand (and foolish) adventures. Which book has inspired you to do something bold or out of the ordinary?
18	National Gardening Day (Apr 14)	<i>Elizabeth and Her German Garden</i>	The author finds freedom and joy in her garden away from society. Describe your ideal sanctuary and what makes it a perfect escape.
19	Patriots' Day (3rd Mon in Apr)	<i>"Paul Revere's Ride"</i> by Longfellow	Longfellow writes, "The fate of a nation was riding that night." Write about a small action that had unexpectedly large consequences.
20	National Look-Alike Day (Apr 20)	<i>The Prince and the Pauper</i> by Mark Twain	Imagine you switch places with your perfect look-alike for one day. Write a diary entry about your experiences in their life.
21	Talk Like Shakespeare Day (Apr 23)	<i>Hamlet, Prince of Denmark</i>	Translate Hamlet's famous line, "To be, or not to be: that is the

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			question," into a modern text message. Then, write the conversation that follows.
22	National Tea Day (Apr 21)	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	You've been invited to the Mad Hatter's tea party. Write a dialogue between yourself and one of the other guests.
23	May Day (May 1)	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Imagine Puck played a trick on you. Describe the comical chaos that ensues in a typical day of your life.
24	National Nurses Day (May 6)	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> by Ernest Hemingway	The novel contrasts the brutality of war with the tenderness of care. Write a scene that focuses on a small act of kindness in a chaotic setting.
25	National Train Day (Sat closest to May 10)	<i>The Railway Children</i> by E. Nesbit	The railway is a source of constant adventure. Imagine you are on a long train journey. Describe a mysterious passenger in your train car.
26	National Dracula Day (May 26)	<i>Dracula</i> by Bram Stoker	The story is told through letters and diary entries. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a townspeople who has just met the mysterious Count Dracula.
27	Memorial Day (Last Mon in May)	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	The protagonist grapples with his fear in battle. Write about a time you felt afraid but acted anyway. What did you learn about courage?
28	National Donut Day (1st Fri in June)	<i>The Boston Cooking-School Cook Book</i>	These old recipes are often very simple. Invent a new, fantastically

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			complex donut recipe and write the instructions in the style of the cookbook.
29	National Best Friends Day (June 8)	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Tom and Huck have a secret pact. Describe a real or imagined childhood secret you shared with a friend.
30	National Children's Day (2nd Sun in June)	<i>Peter Pan</i> by J. M. Barrie	What would your "Neverland" look like? Describe the landscape, inhabitants, and the rules of your personal island of eternal childhood.
31	Juneteenth (June 19)	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	Harriet Jacobs had to hide for seven years to protect her freedom. Describe a sacrifice you (or someone you know) made for a long-term goal.
32	First Day of Summer (around June 21)	<i>Three Men in a Boat</i> by Jerome K. Jerome	The trip is a comedy of errors. Write a humorous story about a vacation or trip where everything went wrong.
33	National Paul Bunyan Day (June 28)	<i>The Marvelous Land of Oz</i>	Paul Bunyan is a tall tale. Invent a new American tall tale character. What is their name, what do they look like, and what incredible feat are they known for?
34	Independence Day (July 4)	<i>Common Sense</i> by Thomas Paine	Paine wrote a powerful argument for a cause he believed in. Write a short, persuasive "pamphlet" about a modern issue you feel strongly about.
35	National Simplicity Day	<i>On the Duty of Civil Disobedience</i>	Thoreau advocated for

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	(July 12)		simplifying one's life to find clarity. Describe three things you could remove from your life to make it simpler and more meaningful.
36	National Moon Day (July 20)	<i>The First Men in the Moon</i>	The explorers discover a civilization on the moon. If you were the first to visit a new planet, what would you hope to find there?
37	National Aunt and Uncle Day (July 26)	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> by Jane Austen	The Dashwood sisters receive advice (both good and bad) from their relatives. Write a scene where a wise aunt or uncle gives a main character crucial advice.
38	National Lighthouse Day (Aug 7)	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> by Virginia Woolf	The lighthouse is a symbol of constancy and guidance. What is a symbolic "lighthouse" in your life—a person, place, or idea that guides you?
39	National Book Lovers Day (Aug 9)	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen	Elizabeth Bennet's opinion of Mr. Darcy changes dramatically. Write about something or someone you completely changed your mind about.
40	National Aviation Day (Aug 19)	<i>The Wright Brothers' aeroplane</i>	The Wrights experienced many failures before their first success. Describe a personal project, the challenges you faced, and the feeling of a breakthrough.
41	National Dog Day (Aug 26)	<i>White Fang</i> by Jack London	The story is told from a wolf-dog's point of view. Write a short scene from your day from the perspective of a pet (yours or

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			imagined).
42	Labor Day (1st Mon in Sep)	<i>The Jungle</i> by Upton Sinclair	Sinclair's novel exposed harsh working conditions. Imagine a modern "Jungle" and write an exposé about the hidden struggles of a particular job today.
43	Grandparents Day (1st Sun after Labor Day)	<i>Heidi</i> by Johanna Spyri	Heidi's relationship with her grandfather is central to the story. Write about a skill, story, or piece of wisdom passed down to you from an elder.
44	Talk Like a Pirate Day (Sep 19)	<i>Treasure Island</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	Write a diary entry from the perspective of Long John Silver's parrot, Captain Flint. What secrets has the parrot overheard on the journey to Treasure Island?
45	National Punctuation Day (Sep 24)	<i>Emma</i> by Jane Austen	Write a short paragraph describing an emotional scene. Then, rewrite it twice, changing only the punctuation to completely alter the tone and meaning.
46	National Coffee Day (Sep 29)	<i>Moby Dick</i> by Herman Melville	Captain Ahab is driven by a single-minded obsession. Describe a character who is obsessed with achieving a seemingly impossible goal.
47	National Poetry Day (First Thurs in Oct)	Poems of <i>E. Dickinson</i> or <i>E. A. Poe</i>	Take a simple, everyday object in the room with you and write a short poem about it, trying to see it in a new and unusual way.
48	Leif Erikson Day (Oct 9)	<i>The Saga of Eric the Red</i>	Sagas are stories of exploration

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			and family destiny. Write a "saga" of your own family, tracing a journey from one place to another.
49	Indigenous Peoples' Day (2nd Mon in Oct)	<i>The School Days of an Indian Girl</i>	Zitkala-Sa writes about the conflict between her heritage and her boarding school education. Write about a time you felt caught between two different worlds or cultures.
50	National Dictionary Day (Oct 16)	<i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i>	Browse Johnson's dictionary and find a word with a surprising or witty definition. Use that word as the title and inspiration for a very short story.
51	Halloween (Oct 31)	<i>"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"</i>	Ichabod Crane is terrified by a local ghost story. Write your own short, spooky legend about the town you live in.
52	Thanksgiving (4th Thurs in Nov)	<i>"The Pumpkin" by John Greenleaf Whittier</i>	The poem celebrates a simple autumn fruit as a symbol of home and happiness. Describe a food that holds a special memory or feeling of comfort for you.
Bonus	Christmas Day (Dec 25)	<i>A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens</i>	Imagine you are visited by three spirits. What would the Ghosts of Your Past, Present, and Future show you?