

## Writing Competition 2019 Prompts

1. Thomas Wolfe writes about pioneer family names in “Old Catawba.” He describes a history of people with English and Scottish roots, but uses fictional names for them (Pentlands, McCraes, etc.). Think about your last name and where you live, then make up fictional names for both. Using these new names, tell the story of your ancestors. Where did they come from? When did they move to where you are now? What kind of people lived there when your ancestors arrived?
2. Think about your state, county, city/town, neighborhood, or even family, and compare it to other places or people groups you have known. They can be nearby or far away. How are these people or places different from each other? What makes each of them special?
3. Remember a time when you argued with someone or witnessed an argument. What was the disagreement over? Describe how you tried to persuade someone to see your side of a story. Was it a friendly disagreement, or did it turn into an angry argument? If you haven’t witnessed or been in any big arguments, make up a story about an imaginary argument and how you would try to persuade someone to your side.
4. Describe a time you weren’t sure if you had the right to do something, even if you were officially allowed to do it? For example: In the story Jim wasn’t sure if he could morally sell his mule for so much money when he had already made that money through the mule’s work. What happened in your case, and what did you decide to do?
5. Have you or someone you know ever been good-naturedly teased for something you’ve done that others thought was silly? What happened? Did you think it was silly at the time? Are you still teased today?