

THE BEACON KEEPERS



FIRST LIGHT

WRITING PROMPTS

UNITS 1-6

Support Materials

Educational Use Notice

These materials are provided by Lordsburg Press as optional companion resources for *The Beacon Keepers: First Light*. They are designed to support classroom, library, homeschool, family, and small-group conversations around the themes of the book, including trust, teamwork, integrity, student voice, purpose, and responsible leadership. These resources are not a formal curriculum, clinical program, counseling tool, psychological assessment, or substitute for professional judgment. Educators, librarians, parents, and facilitators should adapt questions and activities based on student age, readiness, classroom culture, district policy, and local requirements. Some prompts may invite personal reflection. Students should never be required to share private experiences. They may respond from their own experience, from a character's experience, or through a general "someone might" example.

WRITING PROMPTS

Structured writing assignments for text evidence, reflection, narrative writing, and purposeful response. Each unit includes two prompts with a connection, writing task, scaffold, and skills/standards connection.

Use as journal entries, homework, small-group responses, or extended writing assignments. For personal reflection prompts, students may write from their own experience, from a character's experience, or through a realistic "someone might" example.

Unit 1 (Ch. 1–4)

1A — Beacon Statement

Connection: Leo, Jada, and Max each discover their beacon through personal moments, not through a test or an assignment.

Prompt: *Write your own beacon statement: one sentence that describes what you stand for. Then explain in 3–5 sentences how you discovered it.*

Scaffold: *Start with: "I stand for ___ because ___."*

RL.5.2, W.5.3 | Self-Awareness

1B — The Moment Before the Beacon

Connection: Leo, Jada, and Max each discover something about themselves because someone or something helps them see it differently.

Prompt: *Choose one character from Unit 1. Write about the moment before they understand their beacon. What are they unsure about? What helps them begin to see themselves differently? Use at least one detail from the story.*

Scaffold: *Start with: "Before ___ understands their beacon, they feel ___. The moment that begins to change this is ___ because ___."*

RL.5.1, RL.5.3, W.5.1 | Self-Awareness, Social Awareness

Unit 2 (Ch. 5–8)

2A — Welcoming Space Narrative

Connection: Maya says, “This is what belonging feels like,” after helping set up the basement room.

Prompt: *Write about a time you helped make a space feel welcoming — or a time someone made a space feel welcoming for you.*

Scaffold: *Start with: “The room/space looked like _____. I knew I belonged when _____.”*

W.5.3, RL.5.2 | Social Awareness

2B — Foundation Values

Connection: The Beacon Keepers choose integrity, respect, and connection as their foundation values.

Prompt: *Choose three values for your own foundation. They may be your values, a character’s values, or a team’s values. For each one, explain why it matters and give a specific example of what it looks like in action.*

Scaffold: *Start with: “My three values are _____, _____, and _____.”*

W.5.1 | Self-Awareness

Unit 3 (Ch. 9–12)

3A — Repairing Mistakes

Connection: The Beacon Keepers choose to disclose Amil’s data access rather than wait to be caught.

Prompt: *Write about a time you had to choose between protecting yourself and doing the right thing. What did you choose? Would you choose the same thing again?*

Scaffold: *Start with: “I had to decide between ____ and _____. I chose ____ because _____.”*

W.5.3, W.5.1 | Responsible Decision-Making

3B — Letter to Max or Leo

Connection: Max tells Leo, “You notice everything. And you didn’t notice me.”

Prompt: *Write a letter to either Max or Leo about what happened between them. What do you want that character to understand?*

Scaffold: *Start with: “Dear [Max/Leo], I want you to know that _____.”*

W.5.1, RL.5.3 | Relationship Skills

Unit 4 (Ch. 13–16)

4A — Evidence, Not Just Words

Connection: The Beacon Keepers had to prove their work to judges who didn't know them.

Prompt: *Write about something you care about enough to present to a room full of strangers. How would you prove it's real with evidence, not just words?*

Scaffold: *Start with: "If I had three minutes to prove ____, I would start by ____."*

W.5.1, SL.5.4 | Self-Management

4B — Compare and Contrast

Connection: At the regional competition, the Beacon Keepers and Apex Robotics both present strong projects, but their approaches are very different.

Prompt: *Compare how the two teams prepare, present, and define success. Use at least two specific details from the text for each team.*

Scaffold: *Start with: "The Beacon Keepers value ____ because _____. Apex Robotics values ____ because ____."*

RL.5.1, RL.5.3, W.5.1

Unit 5 (Ch. 17–19)

5A — Decision Filter

Connection: Dr. Martinez gives the team three questions: Does it serve the mission or purpose? Does it make us stronger? Can we do it without breaking?

Prompt: *Apply these three questions to a character, team, or realistic student group decision. Answer each question honestly and explain what you should do based on your answers.*

Scaffold: *Start with: "A decision I'm facing is _____. Question 1: Does it serve my purpose? ____."*

W.5.1 | Responsible Decision-Making

5B — Pass It Forward

Connection: Ziggy tells Leo: "The debt goes forward, not back."

Prompt: *Write about someone who invested in you. Then write about one specific way you could pass that investment forward to someone else.*

Scaffold: *Start with: "____ invested in me by _____. I could pass this forward by ____."*

W.5.3 | Social Awareness

Unit 6 (Ch. 20)

6A — Full-Circle Writing

Connection: The novel begins and ends in the same place — Saltwind Bay — but Leo is not the same person.

Prompt: *Write a short narrative that begins and ends in the same place, but you have changed. The narrator may be you, a character, or someone you invent. Use specific details about the place and about yourself.*

Scaffold: *Start with a description of the place. End with the same description but add one detail that shows how you see it differently now.*

W.5.3, RL.5.6 | Self-Awareness

6B — Letter to Future Self

Connection: The Beacon Keepers' journey continues beyond Book One...

Prompt: *Write a letter to yourself, to be opened at the end of the school year. Tell yourself what you've learned and what you hope for.*

Scaffold: Start with: "Dear Future Me, Right now I am _____. By the time you read this, I hope _____."

W.5.3 | Self-Awareness
