

ORLANDO REPERTORY THEATRE  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

The  
**REP**

# RESOURCE GUIDE

FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS



ORLANDO REPERTORY THEATRE  
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*Writes of Spring*

*My Favorite Tradition*

PRODUCED BY ORLANDO REPERTORY THEATRE



# ABOUT

Writes of Spring is a unique writing competition that encourages students to enhance their writing skills through creative expression. Each year, Orlando REP accepts hundreds of student submissions from kindergarten through 12th grade. Excerpts from the winning entries are compiled to create an original play using the students' original words and ideas. The final script is fully produced onstage by Orlando REP and UCF graduate students. This year's performance will be filmed on the Orlando REP stage without a live audience. The show will then be streamed to viewers virtually in April.

Submissions may be up to one full page. Students are encouraged to explore any and all styles of writing, be it short story, poetry, essay, or any other format they see fit. Entries may be fiction or nonfiction.

Entries will be submitted online via <https://www.orlandorep.com/writes-of-spring/> or on paper through the mail. Please contact [writesofspring@orlandorep.com](mailto:writesofspring@orlandorep.com) if you plan to submit through mail to receive further instructions.

## The Prompt

**Your 2021 writing prompt is:**

# “My Favorite Tradition”

**Tradition: Noun. From the Latin “traditionem.”**  
**Meaning: “delivery, surrender, a handing down or handing over.”**

Over the course of a year, we participate in many different kinds of traditions. You may have traditions in your family on how you celebrate different holidays. Do you have special food that you eat at different times of the year? Do you always take a picture on your front porch on the first day of school? You might have traditions with other groups as well. Does your dance team do something special before a performance? Does your class at school do something fun to get ready for a big test? Or maybe you have special traditions you keep by yourself or with your friends, like what character you play in a game or how you like to style your hair. What traditions do you have that you have chosen that you want to keep? Are there any traditions in your life that you want to change?

## Important Dates

**November 5:** Submissions open

**December 4:** Submissions close at 11:59pm

**January 8:** Writers of winning submissions are notified

**January TBA:** A free workshop is held for the winners via Zoom to explore ideas in the script

**April 16:** Winners are invited to stream a performance of the new work that originated from their submissions

# EXPLORING THE PROMPT

**These are suggestions on how to approach and discuss this year's prompt with your students. We encourage you to use these questions as a starting point for classroom activities and conversations that meet your personal curriculum.**

## Exploring the Prompt #1: How did your tradition start?

*"The human soul can always use a new tradition. Sometimes we require them." -Pat Conroy*

All traditions start somewhere. Do you have a story of how one of your traditions began? Maybe it was something you tried once and liked so much you decided to do it again. Maybe your tradition began many years ago with your parents or grandparents. Or maybe this tradition is an ancient one that began thousands of years ago and is a part of your cultural or religious heritage. Share with us the story of how one of your traditions began and how you keep that tradition now.

### Activity: Write Like the Wind

Think about one of your traditions, and write down everything you can remember about how it began. Ask a family member to describe the tradition, and write down what they say. Write a description of what your tradition looks like now. When your notes are complete, copy and paste them all into this word cloud generator:

<https://www.jasondavies.com/wordcloud/>. Examine the largest words in the cloud. Are you surprised that certain words are smaller or larger? Why are the large words important to you?

## Exploring the Prompt #2: How did you keep your tradition?

*"Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." -Gustav Mahler*

Every once in a while, something happens that makes keeping a tradition difficult. Sudden illnesses or tragedies can make it hard to continue with the more normal parts of our lives. Recently, the entire world has experienced the effects of social distancing because of the COVID-19 virus. Since many traditions involve gathering with other people, it may have been difficult for you to keep some of them! Were you able to adapt? What changes did you make so that you could keep a tradition? Did you make any new traditions while you were social distancing?

### Activity: Photographic Memory

Find a picture of you and your family or friends participating in a tradition. Write down everything you can remember from the memory in the photo. What did you smell, hear, and taste? Do you remember what you could see on the other side of the camera? What were you feeling? After writing down all of your memories, think about how your tradition in the picture might have changed this year. Do you have a recent picture to compare to the original? If not, imagine what the tradition would look like now. How is it similar or different?

## Exploring the Prompt #3: The traditions in my future.

*"A tradition is kept alive only by something being added to it." -Henry James*

One important element of a tradition is that it is passed down from one group to another. Think about the current traditions you have in your life. Are there any that you think you will change or even abandon when you are older? Are there traditions you will keep and pass down to others? Will you make any changes as you pass these traditions down?

### Activity: Visualize future traditions

What are your current traditions? Write down as many one-word answers as you can. What makes your current traditions special? Who are the kinds of people you want to include in future traditions? When you have a list of words, choose one, and type it into the search bar on <https://visuwords.com>. You will see a web of related words and definitions. Click on the different word spheres, and write down any that connect with you. Then, choose a new word, and keep exploring.

# SUGGESTED CPALMS STANDARDS

## Writing Standards

LAFS.1.RL.1.2 – Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

LAFS.4.W.1.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

LAFS.68.WHST.2.4 – Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LAFS.910.W.1.2/LAFS.1112.W.1.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

## Questions?

### Contact Us:

**Email:** [writesofspring@orlandorep.com](mailto:writesofspring@orlandorep.com)

**Phone:** 407-896-7365 (Ext. 219)

**Website:** <https://www.orlandorep.com/writes-of-spring>