



# Young Authors' Festival 2019

## Student Writing Contest

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### Writing Prompt Suggestions for the 2019 YAF Writing Contest

We encourage you to be creative with the ways you think about the contest theme **experiencing something unexpected!** It's often helpful to read the book associated with the contest to think about how it could inspire your writing. This year's featured book is *The Colored Car* by Jean Alcia Elster. If you're not sure how to get started, consider some of these suggestions, but feel free to come up with your own. Inspiration can come from anywhere!

#### An unexpected find:

- Finding or coming across a stray dog, cat, or other animal.
- Finding a wallet or a large sum of money.
- Meeting someone who ends up becoming very important to you.
- Meeting a new friend at school.
- Finding out something about your or a friend's family, family member, or family history that you didn't know before.

#### An unexpected move:

- Having to move to another neighborhood, city, state, or country.
- Switching to a different school.

#### Unexpected changes or adjustments:

- Becoming a big sister or brother.
- Having to change or make adjustments because of an injury or health condition (yours or someone else close to you).

#### Unexpected travel experiences:

- Send a letter home to someone describing your experience of a new place or of a culture very different from yours.