

# COTTON TALES WRITING CONTEST

## STORY STARTS

What things do you see changing? What is a wondrous transformation?

Let us plant a few ideas in your head!

None of these topics are required, they're just a few prompts  
to get your creativity fluttering!



The 2025 Spring Cotton Tales theme is  
**The Magic of Metamorphosis**

### Grades K-6

What happens when...

- You wake up one morning with butterfly wings.
- A flower whispers secrets to you as it sprouts.
- You find a mysterious pod in the garden—what hatches from it?
- A frog discovers it can turn into more than just a prince.
- Your reflection in the mirror begins to live a different life.
- You and your best friend are turning into different animals—slowly.
- A tree in Murray Park blooms overnight—with glowing fruit.
- You jump in a puddle and come out... different.
- A rusty old key unlocks something that changes you forever.
- You find a journal that rewrites itself as your life changes.
- You meet someone new—but they're not who they used to be.



# COTTON TALES WRITING CONTEST

## STORY STARTS

### Grades 7-12

Build on the story prompts above, give them your own twist, or come up with your own story ideas!



**Reflect a Real Change.** Write a story based on a moment in your life when you changed. Did you move schools? Lose a friend? Learn something new about yourself? Turn it into a metaphor—or even a magical transformation.

**Change for a Reason.** Some transformations happen with purpose. What if a character had to change to save someone, to learn a lesson, or to finally understand the truth?

**Write from the Other Side.** Tell a story from the point of view of something that transforms—a butterfly, an egg to a bird, a robot becoming human, a person turning into a tree. What does it feel like to evolve?

**Pick Something in Plain Sight.** Even the most ordinary objects can be fascinating in creative writing. Consider the closet in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Or the backyard in *The Secret Garden*. Or the objects that turn out to be portkeys in Harry Potter books. Close your eyes, turn around, and name the first thing you see when you open your eyes. How can it become a magical part of your story?

