

Activity Idea

LGBTQ+ NaNoWriMo Writing Prompts

Recommended for Adults

November means it's time for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), when thousands of people all over world challenge themselves write a full-length novel in just 30 days. To pace yourself, you plan to write 2,000 words a day every day of November, and by the end of the month, you have a 50,000-word manuscript. Now, you can call yourself a novelist!

LA County Library's Pride Committee loves NaNoWriMo & LGBTQ+ storytelling, so to celebrate we are asking folks to participate with an LGBTQ+ twist. We understand that many people can't spare the time to type out 2,000 words a day. We get it! But we also want to encourage folks to explore the fun and inspirational practice of writing, of using your imagination and seeing where it can take you.

That being said, for the month of November (and beyond), we challenge you to write a 500-word short story on any subject you like. Need some ideas? We're happy to help! Here are some writing prompts, ideas, or themes you can use to inspire the next great LGBTQ+ story!

Spark an Idea!

Use these topics and themes as a jumping off point for your literary endeavors (for bonus points, combine two or three):

- Someone's first visit to their local LGBT Center.
- A transgender or gender non-conforming person coming to terms with the fact that they are not the gender they were assigned at birth. What are they thinking and feeling?
- Your main character finds themselves at a Pride Parade on an alien planet. What might that look like?
- Go through the exact day you're going through today, but with a different gendered experience.
- Coming out in the big city or a small town, whichever is less familiar to you.
- "Let's both wear dresses to the prom!" Continue the story.
- How does a historical personage who is secretly LGBTQ+ navigate their life during their era?
- A love story between two LGBTQ+ best friends.
- A life-changing LGBTQ+ date.
- Your protagonist questions their own gender identity mid-way through the story. What leads up to the epiphany?
- A simple story about a LGBTQ+ coffee date. But is anything really simple?
- A fairy tale about a knight of any gender identity who goes on a quest to earn the affection of Royalty.
- "So, I'm gay!" "Me too!" What happens next?
- You get a letter from your best friend, professing their love for you. "Finally!" you think.