

Free Samples and Prompts From Monica Harris!

MHarrisbooks.com

Grades 7-9: Excerpts from my featured article, *Points to Ponder*, in **Above and Beyond** magazine.

Instructions: Creativity does not always come easily or naturally. Points to Ponder are activities that get productive thoughts flowing. They spark imagination, withdraw emotions and push students to look at the world through different eyes. Each activity is open-ended, so success at every level is assured.

Story Starters: Instruct students to create fictional stories with the following plots.

1. You wake to find that the household appliances can talk.
2. A fly stuck in a web argues with the spider on why it shouldn't be eaten.

Artistic Activities: Have students create their artistic responses to the following:

1. Draw a blueprint of a tree house you'd like to build.
2. Design the jacket cover art for the fictional book titled, *Radioactive Donut Holes*.

Journal Writing: Encourage students to express their personal feelings or thoughts.

1. Describe a recent moment when you felt disappointed in yourself or something you did.
2. Choose one person in your life who fits the term *unique*. Describe and give examples of why the word is appropriate.

Group Discussion: Have small groups or entire classes brainstorm possible responses.

1. What are the pros and cons of same sex schools?
2. How would you like people to best remember you when you die?

Drama: Instruct small groups to create and act out skits based on the following.

1. Act out a situational comedy involving a load of laundry tumbling in the clothes dryer.
2. The conversation that occurs between the items in a lunch box.