

BEASTLY

writing prompts

Beastly Writing Prompt #1

In the new novel by N.E. Bode, *The Slippery Map*, Oyster R. Motel slips into the world of someone else's imagination. It's filled with amazing beasts: spider wolves, snapping dirt clams, jelly roaches, dart-spitting snakes ... Create three beasts from your own imagination – be daring and wild and odd!

You could begin this way:

The hairy beast was curled tight. I could only see its back in the dim light and hear its heavy breaths ...

Beastly Writing Prompt #2

Oyster R. Motel must cross the Breathing River. In YOUR Imagined Other World – the one you make up in your very own head – what does your river look like, smell like, sound like, and taste like? Describe in vivid detail!

You could begin this way:

I walked to the edge of the river, watching it churn, and the only scent that hung in the air was ...

Beastly Writing Prompt #3

Oyster is helped along on his journey by a number of interesting friends – wingers, doggers, growsels – not to mention Pippy, Ringet and Hopps. Some have tusks. Some are elfish. Some glow. In YOUR Imagined Other World, who are some of the interesting friends who come to your aid?

You could begin this way:

On any adventure, I always bring my two good friends Lorie of the One Blue Eye and Willy who is so small that he's almost invisible ...

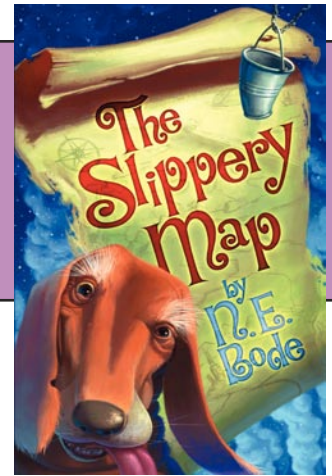
Beastly Writing Prompt #4

Oyster has learned skills in the nunnery – swinging on the rope in the belfry and hurtling chapel pews – that come in handy on his adventure. What skills do you have now that would help you on YOUR adventure?

You could begin this way:

Running away from my vicious, screaming younger brother has really developed my calf muscles and so now as I face the gruesome and terrifying ...

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Beastly Writing Prompt #5

One of the best parts of imagining another world is inventing the villain. In *The Slippery Map*, Oyster R. Motel must defeat the evil Dark Mouth. Invent your own villain. Have at it!

You could begin this way:

Before I ever saw this awful beast, I'd heard tales of ...

Beastly Writing Prompt #6

Oyster has a trusty sidekick, Leatherbelly, the fatty dachshund with the long snout and floppy ears that you see on the cover. Describe the trusty sidekick that you would most like to have on an adventure.

You could begin this way:

In my pocket, I always have my dear little sidekick named ...

Beastly Writing Prompt #7

Oyster visits the West Coast of Boneland – an awfully wonderful place that's awful in its wonderfulness. Oyster has his own theme song. He gets to hang out poolside. He sees a room filled with the most amazing toys and gets to eat fabulous food. Describe the most fantastic, plush place you can imagine ... and, if you want, add why it really can't compete with a real home filled with family and friends.

You could begin this way:

The robots were delightful ...

And The Final Beastly Writing Prompt

(You're almost to the end! Make one more big, final, imaginary PUSH!)

There are some dangerous battles in *The Slippery Map*. Imagine you have come face to face with a dragon in a forest with only a rope and a stick. How would you defeat the dragon and continue on your quest?

You could begin this way:

The dragon heard the twig snap and slowly flared its nostrils and twisted its giant head until its keen eyes spotted me in the brush.