

Marco Polo

writing

prompts



Dear Teacher,

These are very simple prompts for your elementary students. Because these are journal entries, not full papers we are not as particular about grammar and spelling as we would be if they had edited the papers properly. Instead we are looking at the voice that comes out of this writing. How are they doing at conveying the specific emotions and feelings each writing prompt is focusing on.

Day 1 focuses on sense of hearing

Day 2 focuses on sense of touch and feeling

Day 3 focuses on sight and smells

Day 4 focuses on emotions of a new experience

Day 5 focuses on describing a person

Marco Polo had to cross the entire expanse of the Middle East before getting over to China. Most of this travel was done on camels through the desert. Describe what it felt like to travel on camel. Include as many words describing your sense of touch as you can. What does the sand feel like? What is the weather like? Are the days different from the nights?

Marco Polo Rubrics

| Prompt 1 | Poor | Okay | Great |
|--|------|------|-------|
| Have you described the sea journey? | | | |
| Have you used sound words to describe the journey? | | | |
| Are the sentences varied? | | | |
| Total | | | |

| Prompt 2 | Poor | Okay | Great |
|--|------|------|-------|
| Have you described the journey overland? | | | |
| Are sensory words used? | | | |
| Are the sentences varied? | | | |
| Total | | | |

| Prompt 3 | Poor | Okay | Great |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Can the reader visualize the market? | | | |
| Were smell words used? | | | |
| Are the sentences varied? | | | |
| Total | | | |

| Prompt 4 | Poor | Okay | Great |
|------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Did you describe the events? | | | |
| Did you use emotion words? | | | |
| Are the sentences varied? | | | |
| Total | | | |

| Prompt 5 | Poor | Okay | Great |
|---|------|------|-------|
| Is it clear who you are describing? | | | |
| Are there several adjectives used to describe the person? | | | |
| Are the sentences varied? | | | |
| Total | | | |