



Arrivals and Departures—Writing Prompts

Arrivals and Departures—Writing Prompts

Name _____

T.S. Eliot wrote,

*“We shall not cease from exploration
and the end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first time.”*

So it is with arrivals and departures, the continual comings and goings that define our travels, as well as our lives. We return from each departure the same, yet different. Our own journeys change us, and so do those of others in our lives.

Choose ONE of the following prompts to explore embarkations and debarkations.

1. Write a goodbye scene, real or imaginary. Then, write a new ending to a goodbye from your past. Write what you wish had been spoken, revealed or given away.
2. When we depart, we leave people behind: watching them through a car or train window as we go, looking back as we walk down the airport corridor, or glancing over our shoulder as we cross the street or leave a room. Remember a departure when you looked back; write what you saw.
3. Turn the last exercise around. Be the one who stays, and write of watching someone else depart.
4. “Arrival” is a term used for babies being born. “Welcome our new arrival,” we say. Write about such an arrival. Then time travel backward and write about your own arrival as a newborn.
5. Write about a time you left when you wanted to stay.
6. Remember a time when you arrived early to meet someone. Write about waiting for their arrival. Describe your anticipations and expectations. Do the same about seeing someone off. Write about their departure.
7. Write about the time you missed your plane or train or the ride you were supposed to catch.
8. Write about leaving before the sun rises. Write about arriving after dark.
9. Write from one of these prompts:
 - a. On the night train to....
 - b. Write about an unexpected arrival or a delayed departure
 - c. You’re meeting someone

