

*“Illusions and Reality” explores the difference between what is real and what you think is real: the dreams you have and the reality you live in. It is about misinterpretation, how illusions can get in the way of reality and reality can get in the way of illusions. This theme explores the difference between what you think and what is fact, the difference between perception and reality, falsehoods and truth.*

### **Prompts to Consider**

**Respond to one or several of these questions in the form of a poem, personal narrative, short story, or artwork:**

- What did you know was false but convinced yourself was true? What did you know was true but convinced yourself was false?
- Which is more dangerous, illusions or reality?
- What would inspire you to deceive someone?
- Which do you prefer: illusions or reality?
- What mirages have you witnessed?
- How do your illusions affect your reality?
- What masks do you wear?

**Use one of these story starters to help develop an idea for a story:**

- The history books say one thing, but what *really* happened on that fateful day? Write about a major event and what really happened versus what people think happened.
- Start a story or poem with this phrase: “I wish my world was different because...”

**Use these ideas to develop an idea for a poem, story, narrative, or artwork:**

- Write about an experience that changed your view of the world and / or people.
- Imagine a mirror. One side of the mirror is truth and the other is fantasy. Which is which?
- Write a poem, story, or narrative based on this concept: from afar, a mirage is identical to an oasis.
- Illusion and reality are facing off in the boxing ring. Who wins and why?

**Respond to one of these quotes in the form of a poem, personal narrative or fiction story:**

- “Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.” - Albert Einstein
- “Nothing is more sad than the death of an illusion.” - Arthur Koestler
- “Sometimes it's not the people who change, it's the mask that falls off” - H. Murakami
- “Some say that true love is a mirage; seek it anyway, for all else is surely desert.”  
-Robert Breault