**Derby Academy Writing Prompts**

Episode 1 Who Was Ansel Williamson?

Although Ansel Williamson trained the first Derby winner, why do you think that not much is known of his life? What are clues we have today that give us insight into Williamson’s life and character?

Episode 2 The Legacy of Man O’ War

The great horse Man O’ War never ran in the Kentucky Derby. Why do you think the Kentucky Derby Museum is honoring this horse with a special, temporary exhibit?

Episode 3 Let’s Talk $$

We know from this episode that the Kentucky Derby has about a half a billion economic impact on the regional economy. Think about your town. What events do you have where you live that attracts people from other areas? Where do they spend money, and how does that money affect your community?

Episode 4 Derby Gold

Gold has been a symbol of great value throughout history. Write about other ways people have used gold as a symbol of value.

Episode 5 You Are What You Eat

You’re at the grocery store. It’s your job to fill the cart the healthy foods, essential for good health. What are you putting in your cart and why? (Don’t worry about the price!)

Episode 6 Matt Winn’s Derby

When Matt Winn and his group took over the Churchill Downs racetrack in 1902, the Kentucky Derby was struggling. What were some ways that Winn turned the Derby around and made it into an important American sporting event? What were some key aspects of his personality that helped him in this job?

Episode 7 A Horse Named Eclipse

Today, we know that a solar eclipse is caused by the orbits of the earth and moon, and the alignments of which briefly block the sun. But in ancient times, cultures had no scientific knowledge of the eclipse phenomena. So they told stories that tried to explain what they were seeing. In ancient China, it was explained that a dragon devoured the sun. Native American cultures believed that a bear got into a fight with the sun and took a bite out of it. After viewing Derby Academy, write your own legend explaining a solar eclipse using information from the episode.

Episode 8 On the Road with KDM

The Kentucky Derby Museum has taught programming in all 120 Kentucky counties. In that time, thousands of miles have been traveled and thousands of students have learned about our special horse race. Write a letter to a friend, describing your pretend visit to one of the geographical regions of Kentucky. Include information about the geography, places of interest, economic engines and any other information you find relevant.

Episode 9 International Horse Sense Comes to Kentucky

Horse experts from all over the world come to Kentucky to work on our world class Thoroughbreds farms. What are challenges that people face when moving to a different culture? Also, how does Kentucky benefit when others from different cultures settle here?

Episode 10 Back to School!

As students head back to school after a summer break, young Thoroughbred racehorses leave their farms and head to the racetrack to “go to school”. What are similarities that teachers and horse trainers share as they try to get their learners (both human and horse) to reach their potential? What do you think would be the biggest challenge in training a horse?