

Prompt Cards: Suits

Detailed

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Hearts (♥) — Community & Culture

Hearts represent the human element: relationships, traditions, celebrations, conflicts, memory. This is the internal social life of the settlement—how people connect, clash, remember, and create meaning together.

Typical prompts involve:

- Interpersonal relationships (friendships, romances, rivalries, family)
- Cultural practices (festivals, ceremonies, wind-songs, storytelling)
- Memory and history (Earth traditions, elder stories, preserved customs)
- Community gatherings (celebrations, councils, shared meals)
- Internal tensions (factional disagreements, generational gaps, value conflicts)
- Education and transmission (teaching children, passing knowledge, mentorship)
- Identity questions (who are we? what do we preserve? how do we change?)

Example prompts:

- 2♥: A child asks an elder to teach them an Earth language
- 5♥: Two factions disagree over how to celebrate an upcoming festival
- 8♥: A beloved community member considers leaving for another settlement
- 10♥: A marriage ceremony between Earth Rememberer and Duskara-Born becomes flashpoint for wider tensions

Diamonds (◆) — Resources & Technology

Diamonds represent the material and technical aspects of survival: water, power, food, infrastructure, maintained technology. This is the practical side of life on Duskara—the systems that keep people alive and thriving.

Typical prompts involve:

- Water systems (aquifers, atmospheric collectors, purification, distribution)
- Energy (wind turbines, thermal exchangers, power grids, battery storage)
- Food production (vertical farms, hydroponics, crop genetics, native cultivation)
- Infrastructure (storm barriers, thermal insulation, structural integrity, expansion)
- Technology maintenance (repairing old equipment, salvaging components, preserving knowledge)
- Resource scarcity (rationing, allocation, conservation, depletion warnings)
- Material abundance (surplus, trade opportunities, technological breakthroughs)

Example prompts:

- 3◆: Atmospheric moisture collectors yield a small surplus for the first time
- 6◆: Engineers develop a more efficient wind turbine blade design
- 9◆: The aquifer shows concerning signs of mineral contamination
- 10◆: Main power grid fails during a critical moment

Spades (♠) — Environment & Adaptation

Spades represent Duskara itself: the wind, storms, temperature extremes, native life, and the psychic abilities humans developed to survive here. This is the interface between humanity and the planet—both the challenges and the gifts of adaptation.

Typical prompts involve:

- Weather phenomena (superstorms, wind shifts, temperature spikes, aurora displays)
- Native life (creatures, plants, ecosystems, bonding opportunities, ecological mysteries)
- Psychic abilities (new manifestations, training, control issues, ethical questions)
- Environmental hazards (heat creep from day-side, cold snaps, air quality, radiation)
- Duskara's beauty (twilight vistas, wind harmonics, bioluminescent displays, adaptation successes)
- Physical adaptation (genetic changes, environmental tolerance, evolutionary pressure)
- Harmony vs. struggle (learning to flow with Duskara vs. fighting it)

Example prompts:

- 4♠: A young thermal sensor's abilities manifest unexpectedly
- 7♠: Weather workers detect an unprecedented storm pattern forming
- 8♠: Native creatures usually docile become agitated and dangerous
- 10♠: The twilight belt's temperature bands shift suddenly; the settlement is now too warm

Clubs (♣) — Mysteries & Change

Clubs represent the unknown, transformation, and deep questions: ancient structures, lost knowledge, philosophical dilemmas, internal evolution. This is about the settlement grappling with what it doesn't understand and who it's becoming.

Typical prompts involve:

- Ancient mysteries (pre-human structures, unexplained phenomena, alien artifacts)
- Lost knowledge (recovering *Stellar Horizon* data, fragmented Earth history, forgotten technologies)
- Exploration discoveries (new territories, hidden caves, strange readings, uncharted areas)
- Internal transformation (fundamental cultural shifts, generational changes, identity evolution)
- Philosophical questions (purpose, meaning, ethics of adaptation, relationship to Duskara)
- Unexpected changes (mutations, new abilities, spontaneous cultural innovations)
- Secrets revealed (hidden histories, concealed truths, unspoken knowledge)

Example prompts:

- 3♣: Scouts find geometric patterns in rock formations that might be artificial
- 6♣: Old data crystals reveal the *Stellar Horizon*'s crew knew the destination was wrong
- 9♣: A group of young people spontaneously develop a new form of psychic connection
- 10♣: The settlement discovers they're not the only descendants of the lost ship

Complete Card Prompts

This table provides specific prompts for each card. These are starting points—interpret them through your settlement's current situation, history, and needs. As you become familiar with the game and setting, you're encouraged to create your own prompts based on the suit themes and rank intensities described above.

Special Cards:

- **Aces:** A character emerges (see Characters section)
- **Jacks:** Wild card—table chooses any suit interpretation
- **Queens:** First of each suit triggers Growth Phase; subsequent Queens use prompt below
- **Kings:** First of each suit triggers Crisis Phase; subsequent Kings use prompt below

Hearts (♥) — Community & Culture

Card	Prompt
A	A character emerges (see Characters section)
2	A child asks to learn something from the old world that few still remember
3	Two neighbors discover a shared interest that bridges a cultural divide
4	A minor disagreement at a communal meal reveals deeper tensions
5	Someone proposes changing a traditional ceremony to better fit Duskaran life
6	A wind-singer composes a new song that captures the community's current mood
7	A serious argument erupts over how to teach the next generation
8	A beloved elder announces they're considering leaving for another settlement
9	Two factions organize separate celebrations of the same event
10	A marriage, partnership, or bonding ceremony becomes a flashpoint for identity questions
J	Wild Card (table chooses any suit)

Card	Prompt
Q	Growth Phase Milestone (first time) / A major cultural achievement brings the whole settlement together in celebration (subsequent)
K	Crisis Phase Milestone (first time) / Someone important to community cohesion dies, leaves, or betrays trust (subsequent)

Diamonds (♦) — Resources & Technology

Card	Prompt
A	A character emerges (see Characters section)
2	A minor system needs routine maintenance but parts are scarce
3	Atmospheric collectors yield slightly more water than usual this cycle
4	A key piece of equipment begins showing signs of wear
5	Someone discovers an efficiency improvement in daily resource use
6	Engineers successfully restore a piece of salvaged Earth technology
7	Underground water readings show concerning changes
8	The main power grid experiences brownouts during peak usage
9	A critical resource stockpile runs lower than expected
10	Major infrastructure failure occurs without warning
J	Wild Card (table chooses any suit)
Q	Growth Phase Milestone (first time) / A technological breakthrough or resource abundance transforms capabilities (subsequent)
K	Crisis Phase Milestone (first time) / Essential infrastructure collapses or critical resource is exhausted (subsequent)

Spades (♠) — Environment & Adaptation

Card	Prompt
A	A character emerges (see Characters section)

Card	Prompt
2	The wind shifts into an unusual but manageable pattern
3	A young person's latent psychic ability manifests gently
4	Native creatures behave strangely near the settlement
5	Temperature readings indicate a gradual shift in the twilight belt's position
6	Weather workers sense an opportunity to improve crop yields through wind patterns
7	A superstorm forms on the horizon, larger than normal
8	The day-side's heat begins creeping closer to the settlement's boundaries
9	A psychic talented individual's abilities spiral unexpectedly
10	Environmental catastrophe strikes—choose: temperature spike, wind shear, atmospheric event
J	Wild Card (table chooses any suit)
Q	Growth Phase Milestone (first time) / Deep harmony with Duskara is achieved; adaptation bears fruit (subsequent)
K	Crisis Phase Milestone (first time) / Duskara itself turns hostile in unprecedented ways (subsequent)

Clubs (♣) — Mysteries & Change

Card	Prompt
A	A character emerges (see Characters section)
2	Someone finds an object or data fragment that doesn't quite make sense
3	Scouts report geometric patterns in distant rock formations
4	Old records contradict something everyone thought they knew
5	A group of young people spontaneously adopt a new practice nobody taught them
6	Recovered data crystals reveal uncomfortable truths about the <i>Stellar Horizon's</i> voyage
7	An expedition returns with reports of something inexplicable

Card	Prompt
8	The settlement discovers evidence of other human survivors from the ship
9	An ancient structure in the scorched lands begins exhibiting unusual activity
10	A profound truth is revealed that forces the community to reconsider its fundamental assumptions
J	Wild Card (table chooses any suit)
Q	Growth Phase Milestone (first time) / A mystery is solved or transformation embraced that opens new possibilities (subsequent)
K	Crisis Phase Milestone (first time) / Terrible knowledge or irreversible change shatters old certainties (subsequent)

Using These Prompts:

These prompts are designed to work for most twilight belt settlements, but you should always interpret them through your specific context:

- What has happened recently in your settlement?
- What challenges and resources do you currently have?
- What questions are already open?
- What characters exist and what do they care about?

Example: The prompt "A child asks to learn something from the old world" (2♥) plays very differently in:

- An Earth Rememberer settlement (honored, immediate teaching)
- A Duskara-Born settlement (awkward, maybe refused)
- A fractured settlement (becomes a factional issue)

Creating Your Own Prompts:

Once familiar with the game, create custom prompts by:

1. Choose a suit (Hearts/Diamonds/Spades/Clubs)
2. Match the rank's intensity (2-5 everyday, 6-9 significant, 10 critical)
3. Ground it in your settlement's specific situation
4. Leave room for interpretation

Custom prompts often emerge naturally from play: "That situation would make a perfect 7 of Hearts for next time..."