

## Guidance for English Examinations; creative writing

The task for year 7 and 8 will require them to write a structured account of an event where the focus is on how well the event is described.

Here is an effective description from a book by Joseph Conrad called 'Typhoon':

"The seas in the dark seemed to rush from all sides to keep her back where she might perish. There was hate in the way she was handled, and a ferocity in the blows that fell. She was like a living creature thrown to the rage of the mob; hustled terribly, struck at, borne up, flung down, leaped upon."

Descriptions are effective when they are generally realistic, detailed and carefully structured. Descriptive writing texts describe something such as a place, person, object or scene at a specific moment in time.

Producing an engaging piece of writing can be difficult. Encourage your child to look around, think about the things they find interesting. They can be incidents they have experienced in their own lives or exaggerated real events. It is possible to invent details and characters as long as the details are realistic, not boring or generalized or overly ambitious.

Why not have a go at writing about an incident that took place in school when a new supply teacher attempts to teach a lesson:

1. Zoom in on people/ specific details
2. Include little snatches of conversation
3. Plan and remember to answer these questions:

Where will/did the incident take place?

What happened?

Who was involved?

Where is the narrator? (you are watching and recording what is seen and heard, not involved in the incident)

Are you going to make it serious, humorous or dangerous?

Use the powerpoint slides provided by Mrs. Edwards to help you prepare and there is also useful tips for children and parents on BBC Bitesize, KS3 English in the Writing to Describe section and Creative and Narrative writing section.

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