Summer Writing Course 2021

Years 3-4

Creative Writing Lessons

*Lesson 1:* **Literary Techniques**

This lesson focuses on consolidating and reinforcing the class’s knowledge and ability to use literary techniques, whilst introducing them to some new and more sophisticated techniques such as foreshadowing, flashback and pathetic fallacy. The class looks at how to use figurative language in all different types of writing, straying away from cliched examples of literary techniques and teaching the students methods for ensuring their figurative language is original and unique. We will be looking at how to improve the students’ confidence in their understanding of figurative language and getting them to think more broadly about concepts such as metaphor, personification and sound effects in writing.

*Lesson 2:* **Finding Your Writers Voice**

This lesson focuses on building on the students’ confidence in their own writing style, looking at how they can create a unique and energetic voice throughout their writing. It will ask the class to consider their own personal writing style and work on how to embrace their own idiosyncrasies, take risks and be even more creative with their form and style. They will also be encouraged to experiment with different ways in which they can inspire themselves, practicing free-writing and other creative processes to help them branch out from their comfort zones. This lesson aims to help them find their own unique voice, one of the most important skills for creative writing and something that will make their work stand out from the crowd, whilst also teaching them to write as they speak, with as much personality and creativity as possible!

*Lesson 3:* **Poetry Writing**

This lesson focuses on expanding the students’ poetic capabilities, looking at poetic techniques, how to conjure up vivid imagery, how to use rhyme and rhythm, and how to understand meter in poetry. The class will be asked to consider the connotations and thematic content of their both famous poems and their own and will be encouraged to play around with different styles of poetry before eventually writing their very own nonsense poems. They will look at example of nonsense poems written by Lewis Carroll for inspiration and will be taught how to use symbolism and metaphor in a way that mirrors Carroll’s inventive and unique style of writing and language exploration. Finally, they will also be taught how to expand their horizons linguistically, looking at substituting their own made-up language in order to create a fun, silly and nonsensical piece of rhyming poetry.

***Lesson 4:* Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about creative writing over the past three sessions. They will be asked to complete a twenty minute exam under timed conditions, which we will then go through step by step as a class. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson, and can use this as a practice run for the real thing! This lesson is designed to consolidate their knowledge of creative writing, and to help them get used to the format of writing in exams. They should aim to use as many different literary techniques, high-level vocab examples and interesting structural devices as possible- all of which we will have covered in the preceding weeks.

Essay Writing Lessons

*Lesson 5:* **Advanced Vocabulary**

This lesson will focus on advanced vocabulary and how to use it effectively in essays. The students will be taught how to use a strategy known as ‘word attack’ to uncover the meanings of advanced words, will learn strategies for remembering advanced vocabulary for an exam setting, and will revise how to use a thesaurus in order to expand their lexical range. We will study some examples of Shakespearean language, looking at how the English language has evolved over time, and they will be encouraged to come up with their very own uses of Shakespearean language to help them further their vocabulary. Finally, we will complete some work on idioms. This will also mark the beginning of the weekly word of the day that will be included at the beginning of every lesson to help the students get used to using advanced vocabulary in context.

***Lesson 6:* Rhetorical Devices**

This lesson focuses on advancing the class’s knowledge of persuasive devices, thinking about their essays in terms of rhetoric and the flow of the argument. We will focus on developing an awareness of rhetoric through the medium of speech writing, looking at the persuasive techniques, rhetorical devices, rousing language, audience awareness and characterisation necessary for writing a successful speech. The students will be encouraged to use Martin Luther King’s *I Have A Dream* speech as inspiration, considering how he weaves together imagery, literary techniques and powerful, persuasive language to deliver his message. This lesson aims to build upon what they already know about rhetoric and persuasion, helping them to revise persuasive writing techniques whilst also building upon their understanding of the most effective way to communicate their ideas.

***Lesson 7:* Instructional Writing**

This lesson focuses on how to write clearly, concisely and informatively through instructional writing. The class looks at techniques for writing instructions, what can go wrong when instructions aren’t specific enough, and how to be aware of your audience, using the prompt of writing an instructional guide to Earth for aliens. The lesson will consider how an awareness of audience is important in communicating clearly and effectively and will look at how to use imperatives and avoid the passive voice. It will touch on elements of grammar and structure, considering why layout is a crucial aspect of presenting information well, and will also provide a space for the students to explore the creative, fun side of informative and instructional writing, using role-play to test the strength and clarity of their work.

***Lesson 8:* Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about essay writing over the past three sessions. They will be asked to complete a twenty minute exam under timed conditions, which we will then go through step by step as a class. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson, and can use this as a practice run for the real thing! This lesson is designed to consolidate their knowledge of essay writing, and to help them get used to the format of essay writing in exams. They should use as much high-level vocab as possible, whilst also using lots of rhetorical devices, a clear layout, and exploring their own authoritative voice- all of which we will have covered in the preceding lessons.