Six-Week Writing Course 2021

*Lesson 1:* **Finding Your Writers Voice**

This lesson focuses on building on the students’ confidence in their own writing style, looking at how they can writing a unique and authoritative voice throughout their writing. It will consider how personal writing style is, and how literary techniques can be used to create an effective authorial tone to their writing. The class will analyse different types of writing style, thinking about how syntax, word choice and tone feed into their work. 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 and encourage them to experiment with lots of different types of persuasion and argument.

*Lesson 2:* **Descriptive Writing**

This lesson will build on what students already know about how to write a vivid descriptive piece, encouraging the class to expand their knowledge and use of different writing techniques to make their work stand out from the crowd. It will teach them how to use a thesaurus in aid of broadening their vocabulary, how to play with the ideas of tone and atmosphere, and will look at how to use sensory language effectively, whilst also considering how to use some advanced literary techniques such as symbols, word sounds (i.e. sibilance, assonance, dissonance) and pathetic fallacy. The class will also be asked to consider the effect and importance of word choice, using their analysis skills to read between the lines of descriptive text. The aim of this lesson is to expand what students already know about writing descriptively and stretch their abilities using some more advanced and high-level techniques to make their work sparkle.

*Lesson 3:***Narrative Writing**

This lesson focuses on how to hook and captivate the reader through the pacing and crafting of a narrative story. This class will consider ideas of perspective and narrative voice, building suspense through foreshadowing, and particularly focusing on how to hook your reader and leave them wanting more. The students will play around with the framework of the beginnings and endings of stories and they will be given certain criteria to weave into their story in original and unique ways. The ideas taught on pacing are especially important for this age group, who often have loads of great ideas but struggle with story structure a bit more, particularly in an exam context where every sentence has to dazzle. This lesson is designed to give the class all the tools to write structured, suspenseful and captivating narratives with a clear sense of purpose when under time constraints!

*Lesson 4:***Emotive Writing**

This lesson focuses on introducing the concept of emotive writing, considering how an understanding of emotions is important in both narrative and descriptive writing, and in adding layers to any piece of writing. The students will be introduced to this idea through the concept of character creation, thinking about how to use their inference skills to help capture a character’s inner emotional world. We will be doing some work on diary writing in this lesson, thinking about how to create a strong sense of character voice and the different techniques that can be used to express emotively, for example onomatopoeia, exclamation, colloquialisms and idioms. The class will also be encouraged to showcase their descriptive abilities in creating realistic, intriguing characters with complex thoughts and personalities that leap off the page at the reader.

*Lesson 5:* **Advanced Literary Techniques**

This lesson focuses on how to construct, analyse and where to use literary techniques, thinking about the various ways of creating original and interesting figurative language. The class looks at how to combine genre with literary techniques, how to understand metaphor in a different light, and 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 novel and unique. We will be looking at how to move past more simplistic ways of using literary techniques and thinking about how to wow examiners through advanced and sophisticated use of figurative language, metaphor and symbolism.

*Lesson 6:***Persuasive Writing**

This lesson focuses on building on the students’ knowledge of persuasive essay writing, looking at some more advanced persuasive techniques such as the use of rhetoric and word-play whilst also cultivating an authoritative and original writing style. The students will be given the task of writing a persuasive letter to their headteacher outlining what they should spend a government grant of £1 million on- this can be as silly or as serious as each student likes! They will be asked to come up with a compelling and persuasive arguments, using techniques such as anecdotes, statistics, expert opinions, rhetoric and humour to convince their reader. They will also learn how to draw on rhetorical devices, audience awareness and register and tone in writing both a convincing and persuasive letter. This lesson aims to improve the student’s confidence in the authority of their own voice, encouraging them to experiment with lots of different types of persuasion.