11+ Writing

Winter 2021

In each lesson we will study a particular skill set for the 11+ exam, using examples from two mock exam questions per week to help us think about the format and structure of these questions. For each different type of writing, we will consider the key conventions of each, looking at what is important to remember and how to score the top marks, whilst also focusing on general writing skills and expanding the students’ comfort zone, enabling them to play around with language in a creative and innovative way. By the end of these ten weeks, they will have studied many of the most common and crucial writing styles for the exam and will have also taken a mock exam, designed to help them find their own unique, original voice in their writing.

*Lesson 1:* **Crafting a Plot**

Skills learnt: Narrative arcs, the seven types of plot, story structure, searching for unique ideas

*Lesson 2:* **Pacing**

Skills learnt: Creating dramatic conflict, writing satisfying resolutions, controlling speed

*Lesson 3:* **Characterisation**

Skills learnt: Writing convincing dialogue, creating interesting characters, show don’t tell

*Lesson 4:* **Advanced Literary Techniques**

Skills learnt: How to use symbolism, consideration of themes, floral language

*Lesson 5:* **Creating Suspense**

Skills learnt: Understanding of genre, structural techniques, plot twists and foreshadowing

*Lesson 6:* **Description**

Skills learnt: Packing language with meaning, sensory writing, weaving narratives in description

*Lesson 7****:* Emotive Writing**

Skills learnt: Word choice and word play, creating relatability, awareness of author intent

*Lesson 8****:* Playing with Format**

Skills learnt: How to use non-fiction formats in the exam, persuasive techniques, use of tone

*Lesson 9:* **Workshopping and Evaluation**

Skills learnt: Drafting and editing, planning, marking and evaluating, justifying authorial choice

*Lesson 10:* **Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about 11+ writing over the past nine sessions. They will be asked to complete a thirty-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 these mocks to track their progress and work out their strengths and areas of improvement in writing. This lesson is designed to consolidate their knowledge and to help them get used to the format of writing in exams. They should aim to use as many different advanced writing techniques, high-level vocab examples and interesting structural devices as possible- all of which we will have covered in the preceding weeks.