11+ Writing

Summer 2023

In each lesson we will study a particular question type 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 five weeks, they will have studied many of the most common and crucial question types and different styles of writing 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:* **Writing Based on Genre**

Our first lesson will focus on genre- using the science fiction genre as a template and thinking about how a clear, creative understanding of genre can help the students achieve top marks in the 11+ exam. We will complete exercises where the class play with genre and see how it fits into the format of the exam overall.

*Lesson 2:* **Writing Based on a Picture**

In this lesson we will look at the common question type of writing based upon a picture, thinking about how to pull concrete storylines, characters and ideas from something as abstract as an image on the page. We will learn about free-writing and think about how to interpret using the power of the unexpected to impress the examiner.

*Lesson 3:* **Writing Based on Place**

In this lesson we will look at how a sense of place can lead a piece of 11+ writing, studying prompts which focus on the descriptive rather than the narrative- i.e., describe a place you remember from childhood. We will learn about how to create vivid, haunting images, and think about how to bring a scene to live through descriptive techniques.

*Lesson 4:* **Writing Based on Emotion**

In this lesson we will address the question type that asks students to write a story based upon a time they have experienced a particular emotion, questioning what this requires of students and thinking about techniques for engaging the reader emotively. We will dig into the complexities of describing human emotion and think about the power of metaphor.

*Lesson 5:* **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 sessions. They will be asked to complete a thirty-minute exam under timed conditions, which we will then talk through as a class. 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.