Winter Writing Course 2024

Years 56 Creative Writing Lessons

*Lesson 1:* **Descriptive Writing**

This lesson focuses on how to write a vivid descriptive piece, encouraging students to use a range of different writing techniques to add sparkle to their writing. It will teach them how to use a thesaurus in aid of broadening their vocabulary, how to ‘up level’ a descriptive piece of writing by identifying words to alter, and will look at how to use sensory language effectively, whilst also considering how to use some advanced literary techniques such as symbols, metaphors and pathetic fallacy. The class will also be asked to consider and analyse how word choice affects tone and atmosphere. 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 stand out.

***Lesson 2:* Narrative Writing**

This lesson focuses on how to structure a captivating narrative story, thinking about ideas of perspective and narrative voice, building suspense, but particularly focusing on how to hook your reader and leave them wanting more. This lesson will ask the students to consider the more powerful ways in which to begin and end a short story, particularly one in an exam context where every sentence has to pack a punch, and they will be given a checklist of ‘elements’ and ‘events’ to weave into their story in original and unique ways. The students will discuss how to use powerful literary techniques, dynamic verbs and genre, whilst also consolidating their knowledge of story arc structure and “show don’t tell”. This lesson is designed to give the class all the tools to write exciting, suspenseful and captivating narratives with a clear sense of purpose when under time constraints!

***Lesson 3:* Emotive Writing**

This lesson focuses on introducing the concept of emotive writing, considering why an understanding of emotions is important in both narrative and descriptive 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 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 onomatopoeias, exclamation and slang words. The class will also be encouraged to showcase their descriptive abilities in creating some really interesting and compelling characters that hook their reader in.

*Lesson 4:* **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.

Essay Writing Lessons

***Lesson 5:* Persuasive Writing**

This lesson focuses on introducing the concept of persuasive essay writing, looking at persuasive techniques, dynamic language and word-play. The students will be given the task of writing a persuasive letter to a superhero, persuading them to come and fight crime in their town! The students 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.

***Lesson 6:* Argumentative Writing**

This lesson focuses on teaching the students how to form and give their own unique opinions through studying the conventions, style and language associated with crafting an argument. The students will be encourage to come up with powerful and well-evidenced ideas, within the context of a balanced argument, and will be asked to use creative thinking and their skills of logic to decide on their own opinions on the topic. They will also participate in a debate in order to fully understand how to present two sides to every argument and the question they will be debating and then writing on is “would it be good to be famous?”. The students will have to use all their skills to craft an interesting argument that uses explanations, examples, anecdotes and beautiful language to back up their ideas.

***Lesson 7:* Informative Writing**

This lesson focuses on informative writing, the final main category of essay writing that arises in many exam contexts. The students will work on a newspaper article for their school paper on their hero, whether that is someone they know personally, someone famous, or someone they have made up! We will consider the conventions of article writing, discussing how to lay out information in both a clear and captivating way, whilst students will also be encouraged to use some of their high-level vocab skills to paint their hero in the best light, and explain exactly what it is about that person that they find so inspirational. This lesson is designed to help students see that essay writing can be just as fun and creative as other types of writing, and that it often involves a lot of figurative language in order to hook the reader in, whilst also develop an understanding of essay structure and layout, thinking about how to use paragraphing, punctuation and sentence structure to the best effect.

***Lesson 8:* 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 9:* **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 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 essay writing over the past three sessions. They will be asked to complete an 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.