

Year 7 Descriptive and Narrative Writing Knowledge Organiser

Methods and definitions:

Atmosphere: the tone or mood of a place, situation, or creative work.

Characterisation: the creation or construction of a fictional character.

Connotation: an idea or feeling which a word creates in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

Cyclical narrative: a story that begins and ends in the same or very similar way.

Denotation: the literal meaning of a word/object.

Dialogue: a conversation between two or more people. **Flashback:** a scene set in a time earlier than the main story.

Foreshadowing: a warning or indication that something negative is going to happen. **Genre:** a style or category of art, music, or literature.

Linear structure: when a narrative is told in chronological order.

Metaphor: saying something is something else.

Narrative Hook: a literary technique at the start of a story to engage the reader.

Pathetic fallacy: where the weather reflects the mood of the scene or a character.

Personification: giving human qualities to an object.

Simile: a comparison using 'like' or 'as'.

Tension: feelings of nervousness and anxiety created in a text/film etc.

Key concepts:

Descriptive Writing: describing a scene in detail (not telling a story), using the five senses to create imagery in the reader's mind.

Narrative Writing: telling a story, creating an interesting plot, and convincing characters.

Structure: the beginning, middle and end of a piece of writing. Sometimes these are organised a certain way e.g. cyclical, flashbacks to create a particular effect.

The Five Senses: 1. Touch 2. Taste 3. Smell 4. Sight 5. Hearing

Showing not telling: the ability to describe something rather than directly say what it is, which makes writing more interesting e.g.:

Tell: 'I felt angry.' **Show:** 'My cheeks flushed red, a warm rage crawled from the bottom of my spine to my throat. I clenched my fists together tightly.'

Structuring your Writing: Drop, Shift, Zoom in, Zoom out, Single-sentence paragraph: **DROP** the reader into the action.

SHIFT to another time (e.g. flashback), mood or place.

ZOOM IN and describe a tiny detail.

ZOOM OUT and describe the bigger picture.

A SINGLE SENTENCE PARAGRAPH should be included somewhere in your writing, and should create a specific effect on the reader.



Ambitious adjectives: absurd, deafening, epic, excruciating, heartfelt, lavish, miraculous, nimble, stringent, swamped, thrilling, vulnerable

Ambitious verbs: amplify, beam, capture, collide, demolish, devour, envelop, gravitate, illuminate, lurch, recoil, transform, unearth, weave

Ambitious adverbs: adoringly, boldly, brutally, competitively, extravagantly, foolishly, promptly, sympathetically, urgently, utterly, wearily, worriedly