

English Week 1 - Stories from another culture.

L.O. To identify the cultural features in a story

- What do we mean by the term culture?



What do you think you might hear, see, smell, taste and feel?

Note your ideas.



Secrets by Anita Desai

This is an extract from the full story.

In this story from India, Rohan is told off by his teacher and is on his way home with a letter for his parents.

But once he reached the big grey banyan tree that was the only tree in the lane, and found that the cobbler who usually sat under it, mending broken old shoes, was not there, he sat down in its shade, hiding himself in the folds of the great trunk, and sobbed a little with anger. He had not been able to get his sums right although he had tried. He had dropped the ink bottle by accident and not to spoil the teacher's white shoes. Perhaps it was bad of him to pull a face but how could he help it when things were going so badly? Now he was afraid to go home and hand the letter to his father, who would be very angry and beat him. He sometimes did, and often scolded him.

So Rohan hid there in the folds of the grey tree-trunk, and poked with a stick at the seeds dropped on the ground by the parrots that ate the red berries of the tree. He was so angry and afraid that he poked and poked with the stick till he had dug quite a deep hole in the dust. In that hole he found a little grey lump of rubber – a plain piece of rubber

that some other schoolboy might have dropped there long ago. He picked it up and rolled it about between his fingers.

"I wish it were a magic rubber," he said, sobbing a little. "I would rub out the whole school, like this – like this –" and he stepped out to look down the lane at the boys' school that stood at the end of it, and angrily rubbed at the air with the grey lump of rubber.

Then he stopped, his hand still in mid-air, his mouth still open, and his hair began to stand up on his head as it did on his neighbour's cat's back when she saw his dog.

Something very, very strange had happened. The school had vanished. He had really rubbed it out! The tall, three-storeyed house on its left, with its latticed balconies and green roof, was still there, and on the other side the tin-roofed warehouse where timber was stacked stood there too, but in between them, where the school had been, there was now a patch of earth.

Anita Desai

Links to another culture:

ink bottle: _____

banyan tree _____

What tells you this story is from another culture?

Vocabulary
Actions
Environment

After reading the story about Rohan.

Note down any unfamiliar words and find the meanings. Try and find at least 4.

- How do you know this story is from another culture?
- What would be an alternative from England?
(e.g. Banyan tree – Oak tree)

What is the difference between sympathy and empathy?

Sympathy means that you feel an emotion because of someone else's experience, e.g. when a child is crying because they have lost a toy you feel sorry for them.

Empathy means you know what the person is going through because you have been through something similar yourself, e.g. when a child is in deep trouble you know what they are feeling because you have had that experience yourself.

How do you think Rohan is feeling whilst he is sat under the banyan tree?

- When was the last time you were in deep trouble with an adult?
- What emotions did you feel?
- Were there any physical changes in your body?
- What did you think about?



L.O. To write a letter of apology.

- If you are sorry about something you have done wrong, what are you feeling inside?
- Why would Rohan write a letter of apology to his teacher?
- What have you done in the past to get yourself out of trouble?

Use this language when you want to be taken seriously or discussing a serious issue.

Clear writing that is straight to the point.

Reflection:
How did you

You will use this language in text messages or conversations with people you know.

This is everyday language that we use to talk to our friends and family.

Features of a letter.

1. a formal salutation

e.g. dear Mr. and Mrs. Baker, use always last name since you know recipient, do not start with Dear Sir, Dear Madam.

2. Introduction paragraph

Here you should state your opening remarks and clearly state the reason (purpose, motivation) for writing

e.g. Thank you very much indeed for your kind offer...

I am writing you because.....

3. Semi-formal letter body

In this paragraph you write the main subject(s) of the letter in detail, starting a new paragraph for each topic

4. A conclusion

This should be a last paragraph of your letter, and you should write your closing remarks

e.g. I am looking forward to seeing you next month...

e.g. I hope you can meet my request (inquiry)...

5 a semi-formal ending

e.g. Regards/Best regards / Best wishes, etc. + your full name

Other tips: less frequent use of short forms, phrasal verbs and idioms; use a polite, respectful tone.

You will now write a letter to Rohan's teacher (Mrs Desai) in first person. This means you are writing as Rohan.

You may want to plan this out first. ***See plan at end.***

Introduction:

Explain why you're writing
Apologise

What went wrong?

Order of things, feelings.

Maths sums wrong
Found difficult
Ink on shoes
Pulled funny face

What will you do in the future?

Try harder in lessons
Be more careful
Improve my behaviour

Conclusion

Top tips:

- write a letter in the 1st person.
- use cultural references.
- apply my knowledge of persuasive features to a letter.
- Have you kept it formal?
- Key vocabulary: father not farther (dad=informal)
- include emotive language.
- list the things that went wrong and why they went wrong in order.
- include feelings I had.
- use a variety of openers.
- Connectives: consequently, although...
- use a rhetorical question.
- include a conclusion to summarise points.
- Create a word bank to help you.

incident

behaviour

despicable

occurred

guilty

apologetic

disgraced

embarrassed

ally begin your letter to the teacher?

Dear Mrs Desai,

I am writing to apologise for the terrible incidents that occurred today.

Firstly,

Letter Plan

Introduction:

Today I am writing to you because...

I am extremely sorry...

I hope you forgive me after reading this letter.

Explanation of what went wrong?

Concluding paragraph

Yours sincerely

Rohan.