

Suspense story: lesson 1

- LO: To construct a plan for a narrative and start collecting ideas.
- You next big writing task will be a demonstration of all the fantastic skills you have picked up over the year.
- It is clear that as a year group you are talented at telling stories that are full of suspense, so you are going to demonstrate how brilliant you are at this.
- Your task will be to write a narrative that is around 2 pages long, (or longer). This gives you plenty of text to show off a number of different skills.

Show- don't tell figurative language.

foreshadowing cliff hanger

internal monologue emotive language

Can you remember what these terms mean?

First you will need to plan your story.

This is a really important step, once you have a structure you are free to add ideas, phrases and description.

In school we use a number of methods to support you in planning. Choose one that works for you and that you are able to do in these circumstances.

- Post it planning – enables you to move ideas around and have each paragraph's plan in front of you when writing it. (If you like this method, but have no post its you could cut squares of paper.
- Planning on a frame or diagram – enables you to keep the flow all in one place in front of you. You can draw boxes and fill them in horizontally or vertically.

Here is the basic frame of your story-

One or two people are in a strange environment, but they have a reason/permission to be there.

A strange object gets their attention.

They meet a strange person.

This is loosely based on the final part of your mock reading paper: Albion's Dream

Step one.

Post it / box 1

Come up with ideas for your main character.

Come up with a second character on a different post-it note / box
(including a second character gives you the opportunity to include dialogue, so it is a good idea).

Character 1

What do they look like?

Are they adventurous/shy/timid/brave?

Do the same for your second character.

Box 2 /Post-it 2

Come up with ideas for your setting- remember that they need to have a reason to be there.



Setting-

What is the weather like? (If you have an idea of where your story will go- try to create a sympathetic back ground)

Describe the building/place
Use an online thesaurus if you are able.

Box 3 / Post-it 3

Ideas about what the strange/interesting object/thing is.



In Albion's Dream it was a strange game,
But it could be anything you like.

Post it / box 4

Come up with your idea for the strange/mysterious character.

What do they look like?

Can you foreshadow – give a clue – about what they maybe really like (Think of the white queen – beautiful to look at but with a cold stare)

Other details you could describe – speech, movement....

This is the end of lesson 1

By the end of this session you will have a good idea about your characters, setting and basic outline of your story.

You will have written notes about these.

The next session you will plan the whole story, so be thinking it over as you go about the rest of your day.

Scribble down any ideas that come into your head so that you don't forget them.

Suspense story: lesson 2

- LO: To construct a plan for a narrative.

You should have an idea of how your story will progress, and today you need to start breaking it up into paragraphs.

Write notes for each paragraph in a block or on a post it

TIPS:

- Keep it simple, e.g. don't add lots of characters or too many twists.
- Give yourself an opportunity to show off, e.g. if you are really good at describing a setting, make it a big paragraph.
- Build in some dialogue – but only to move on the story – you are not writing a play.

Foreshadowing is a great way to show COHESION.

Think about our writer's toolkit and give yourself the chance to show a whole range of techniques.

**By the end of this session you should have planned
Your whole suspense story.**

You will know what you are going to include in each paragraph.

Before the next lesson allow yourself to mull over your story. Think about phrases, words, ideas you could use and make a quick note if you think of something good.

Don't allow yourself to expand your story though, you will make it too big to control and finish. Improve it instead with details – how someone moves for example - powerful verbs really add to description

Suspense story: lesson 3

- LO to compose the first draft of a narrative.
- Today we are focussing on the first two paragraphs of our narratives. These are extremely important paragraphs as they introduce the characters, setting and mood of the piece.
- These paragraphs should be quite large, so there are lots of opportunities for you to show off.

Before beginning, read the advice on the following slides.

Introducing your characters

- Make them different from each other somehow, e.g. one more intelligent than the other, or older, or they look very different.
- Adjectives are important, but if you can use **verbs** in your descriptions, you add so much more detail, e.g.
- She had dark brown hair.
- She had dark brown hair that tumbled past her shoulders.

Making the reader care.

- For the reader to really be engaged- you need to make them care about your main character.
- TIP: No one likes a know-it-all or cheesy hero- your main character should get scared/nervous or nearly give up.
- TIP: If you have a second character, use him/her to put your main character into places they don't want to be.

More support.

The Setting

- Here is your chance for a BIG WIN!
- You are all so good at setting descriptions, this is your time to shine. But remember- do not over use any one writing tool. e.g. Personification is a great tool, but not every tree has to be "reaching out" and not every dark place has to "swallow the light". Once or twice is enough. Same goes for similes and metaphors.
- Remember- if your character changes settings, e.g. from outside to inside- you may get a chance to describe 2 different settings- if this is the case- try not to repeat yourself.

More support.

Foreshadowing-

- Remember- you only need to hint at what may happen later in the story. Do not make it too obvious. e.g.
- "He barely noticed the low rumble of thunder in the far distance."
- "There was a sudden chill in the air as she stepped across the threshold."

TIPS FOR STARTING YOUR NARRATIVE:

- Start by describing setting and introducing you character/s
- Use all the descriptive tools you have, not just one or two.
- Flow between paragraphs- introduce your next paragraph with the last line.
- LOOK AFTER THE BASICS! e.g. tense, handwriting, perspective etc.
- Once you've done a paragraph, go back and edit it.

More tips.

Tips for building suspense:

- Use short sentences to build tension, but only use them once in your story.
- Use ALL your character's senses, not just what they can see.
- Use DIALOGUE to move your story along. Dialogue should be short and sweet.
- At the peak of the danger/suspense, overwhelm your main character with emotions/environment.
- DO NOT spoil a good story with a bad 'reveal', e.g. "All of a sudden they saw a ghost."

ENDINGS.

- Often the hardest part of a story, but there are some tricks to producing a satisfying ending.
- Don't just kill off people or wake up from a dream- it cheats the reader out of a satisfying ending.
- Finding mysterious notes or possessions of people in your story can be a nice way to wrap up a story- remember Francis.
- There is no shame in adapting the ending of a story you know well- that's what most professional writers do.

By the end of this session you should have written at least the first two paragraphs of your story.

The next two sessions should be spent finishing, then carefully editing your story.

I suggest that you ask someone to read your work as you go along – ask them to check it makes sense; that you have written it all in the same tense (unless you have a reason) and that you haven't started with 'I' then gone into 'he', or the other way round.

It is also a good idea to read your own work out loud.

The finished story

- If you want to type up the edited, improved version and email it to us we would love to read it.
- Or
- You could copy it out into a book and keep it safe to share in the future.