

*Australian Teacher*

# Written Expression & Creative Writing

*Suitable age group:  
10 and older*



# Narrative

Before you begin any story you need to spend a few minutes thinking (and –even better- jotting down) words or phrases to remind yourself of key ideas and points.

What will my story be about? Where will it take place? Who will be ‘in’ the story?

Don’t make your story like everybody else’s: make it special by having a fascinating plot, an unusual setting and ‘colourful’ unforgettable characters. If you really try hard to do this your stories will go from being just ordinary to *very special*.

## **Delilah the Dolphin**

Suppose Delilah was a much-loved dolphin who performed tricks for the public at an oceanarium.

The plot below tells how a gang of criminals captured Delilah and smuggled her out of the country.

*\*an oceanarium is a large sea water aquarium for keeping sea animals\**

**Plot:** *The gang enter the oceanarium in the middle of the night, firing a drugged dart into Delilah. They tow her to a waiting mega-yacht, fitted out with a large pool (this is Delilah’s home for the voyage to Krukimenza). The gang’s plans become undone when Kira, Head Dolphin Trainer at the oceanarium, discovers Delilah’s whereabouts when searching the internet. The gang is captured and Delilah brought back home.*

### **Your task:**

Write a paragraph of 6-8 sentences describing one of the gang members. Mention physical appearance, character traits and any idiosyncrasies this person possesses.



# Ghosts



- 1) *Do you think ghosts exist?*
- 2) *Why are people afraid of ghosts?*
- 3) *How would you feel about entering a so-called haunted house, alone?*
- 4) *Some people have been known to spend a night in a cemetery. What might be their reason(s) for doing so?*
- 5) *Imagine you could be a ghost for 24 hours. What would you do? (e.g. would you scare someone? -who/ why/ when/ where/ how?)*



# Definition & Example

Here are some words with their definitions.

In each case write a sentence containing the word.

*(your sentence should neither be too short nor too long and you should try to use excellent vocabulary; use an example from your own experience or from something you've seen, heard or read about).*

## prominent

i. sticking out: *prominent teeth.*

ii. outstanding or important: *a prominent citizen.*

*Now write a sentence containing the word prominent.*

## message

i. information sent from one person to another.

ii. the meaning of something such as a book or what it tries to teach you.

*Now write a sentence containing the word message.*

## promise

i. a declaration or statement that you will do, or keep from doing something.

ii. signs of future excellence: *to show promise.*

*Now write a sentence containing the word promise.*

## merit

i. excellence: *a painting of merit*

ii. merits: the qualities or features of something or someone, whether good or bad: *let's take each case on its merits*

*Now write a sentence containing the word merit.*



# Similes

Similes appeal to your readers' senses by comparing objects, characters etc to things your readers are familiar with.

Similes come in two kinds: 1) *comparing things using like* 2) *comparing things using as*.

Similes help us to make our point, to 'drive home' the image we're trying to convey.

Consider these examples:

- *The coins in the treasure chest glistened **like** a million twinkling stars in the night sky.*
- *I was as happy **as** a polar bear on ice.*
- *My experience of snorkling in the coral atoll was **like** a fantastic dream.*
- *I was as excited **as** a palaeontologist in a pit of dinosaur bones.*

Your turn:

- 1) Write a **like** simile to describe an extremely loud thunder clap.
- 2) Write an **as** simile to tell how you felt when you noticed that your bicycle had been stolen.
- 3) Write a **like** simile to tell about an approaching swarm of bees.
- 4) Write an **as** simile to say how you felt just before an important test or exam.
- 5) Write a **like** simile describing how your friend looked after being caught in a rain storm.
- 6) Write an **as** simile about your new kitten as it played with a ball of wool.



# Conjunctions: Joining sentences with 'when'

Two sentences can be joined by using **when** at the beginning or in the middle.

Example: *The light turned green. The bus drove on.*

- *When the light turned green the bus drove on.*
- *The bus drove on when the light turned green.*

## Activity

*Join each pair of sentences in two ways:*

1. The wind blew. The sea became rough.
2. The performance finished. We all applauded.
3. We collected wood. We lit a fire.
4. The dog came. Its owner called.

## Solutions

1. When the wind blew the sea became rough. The sea became rough when the wind blew.
2. When the performance finished we all applauded. We all applauded when the performance finished.
3. When we collected wood we lit a fire. We lit a fire when we collected wood.
4. When its owner called the dog came. The dog came when its owner called.



# Acrostic Poem

An **acrostic poem** is a special kind of poem.

The first line begins with the first letter of the title, the second line with the second letter of the title, the third line with the third letter of the title, and so on.

Here is an example of an acrostic poem:

## *Storms*

**S**kimming the sky

**T**he clouds build up

**O**ver the mountains

**R**ain, thunder and lightning

**M**ake people stay inside

**S**ee them listening and waiting

*Now write your own acrostic poem,  
with a subject of your choice.*

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# Curious Combinations

Use the table below to write a story based on the combination of birthday months particular to you. You may (but don't have to) use your combination as the title.

*Example 1: If your birthday is in June, your mother's is in January and your father's is in September, you would write a story about Mr Wilson's absolutely huge chess set (and your title -if you wanted- could be 'Mr Wilson's Absolutely Huge Chess Set').*

*Example 2: If your birthday is in December, your mother's is in April and your father's is in February, you would write a story about Sylvia Morris's gigantic red refrigerator (and your title -if you wanted- could be 'Sylvia Morris's Gigantic Red Refrigerator').*

My Birthday Month	Whose?	My mother's Birthday Month	Descriptor	My father's Birthday Month	Inanimate Object
Jan	Aunty May's	Jan	absolutely huge	Jan	boomerang
Feb	The Benson Twins'	Feb	magical pink	Feb	refrigerator
Mar	My	Mar	ugly-looking, useless	Mar	spoon
Apr	Old Mrs Hamilton's	Apr	gigantic red	Apr	letter box
May	Uncle Tony's	May	broken-down	May	table lamp
Jun	Mr Wilson's	Jun	brand new	Jun	chimney
Jul	Ned the Builder's	Jul	incredibly cool	Jul	bicycle
Aug	Professor Pumpernickel's	Aug	unbelievably shabby	Aug	shoes
Sep	The Alien invader's	Sep	prize-winning	Sep	chess set
Oct	Jimmy's	Oct	mysterious silver	Oct	watch
Nov	Dr Smithers'	Nov	unpredictable purple	Nov	book
Dec	Sylvia Morris's	Dec	ever-so-tiny	Dec	computer



# Creative Thinking

*Here are the beginnings of some stories. Choose one and finish it.*

Additional instructions (1) have two main characters; (2) if you wish, you may make your story fun/humorous (3) include an animal of your choice in your story

- Suddenly, the sky lit up...
- He limped toward the waiting train.....
- There was a loud bang and then.....
- The young musician walked nervously on stage....
- A huge black bear lumbered toward the highway...
- Out of the darkness and into the light of the campfire came...
- A piercing scream was heard...
- I didn't believe in magic spells, but.....
- The huge crocodile opened its jaws wide...
- The express train roared on into the night...
- The tornado moved slowly toward the Jacksons' house.
- The tiny boat slowly pulled away from the shore...
- Under a blazing hot sun an empty road stretched far into the distance.
- The army sergeant roared, “
- There, right in my own backyard, was...
- His name was Ludwig.
- A strange, unusual smell came from the swamp...
- I felt my body shrinking, shrinking...



# Vocabulary Building

## Favourite Animals



1. My favourite animal is ...(*complete the sentence*)
2. Why I like this animal ...(*1-3 sentences*)
3. My description of this animal ...(*1-3 sentences*)
4. How my favourite animal moves...(*1-3 sentences*)
5. This animal likes to...(*1-3 sentences*)
6. It doesn't like...(*1-3 sentences*)

**Here are some words that could be used to describe animals:**

*alert alluring amiable appealing authoritative belligerent bizarre captivating charismatic clumsy commanding coy cultivated enchanting endearing erratic exotic ferocious frail gargantuan gentle gluttonous graceful hulking humble imposing impulsive inquisitive intriguing majestic mischievous nocturnal patterned placid radiant regal robust serene sleek slender streamlined striking stunning subdued timid unadorned volatile vulnerable*

7. Choose two of the above words that apply to your favourite animal.
8. Choose two of the above words that *do not* apply to your favourite animal.
9. Use the word *majestic* in a sentence about any animal other than your favourite.
10. Choose the words *robust* and *serene* in the same sentence about any animal.
11. Choose eight different words from above to describe the following animals (use one adjective for each animal):  
a. *dolphin*    b. *tiger*    c. *mouse*  
d. *giraffe*    e. *elephant*    f. *crocodile*    g. *whale*    h. *gorilla*



# Creative Thinking



## Coin near a Drain

A \$1 coin falls out of a lady's handbag and rolls along the footpath before settling next to a drain.

The lady goes to pick it up but a young boy gets there first and walks off quickly with the coin in his hand.

The agitated lady follows the boy, protesting that the coin is hers.

**Imagine you are the coin. Give a first person account of what happened and where you end up.**

Additional instructions:

- (1) describe the initial scene
- (2) say how you came into the lady's possession
- (3) discuss what was with you in the lady's handbag
- (4) describe how it felt when you hit the footpath
- (5) mention who you would rather be with, the lady or the boy



# Nature, Wild & Wonderful



**Choose one of the natural features below and then, adhering to the \*additional instructions, write an interesting fictional story about your experience of it.**

*thundering waterfall    forbidding canyon    raging river    tranquil lake  
towering tree    erupting volcano    gentle breeze    violent earthquake  
bubbling brook    crashing waves    steamy swamp    giant surf*

**\*Additional instructions:**

- *Write in the first person.*
- *Include: one young person apart from yourself; a crippled old man or lady; an animal of your choice.*
- *Conclude with a surprise ending.*
- *Give your story a suitable title.*

