

English – Summer Term Week 1

LO: To write informal letters including descriptive devices and feelings

This term we will be looking at the book Tom's Midnight Garden. If you have a copy or can find a copy, it's a good book to read with some great vocabulary. However, to ensure you all have access to the story, we have found youtube clips from a BBC adaptation in 1989 (it's a bit old but still good).

Try to only view the clips when told so you don't get ahead! This week we will look at writing letters and postcards. The story is about a boy who has to go to stay with his uncle and aunt because his brother has measles and he has to be quarantined (this is probably easy for you to relate to because we are all in lockdown at the moment!)

Watch the first clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmJQDhXL9mY>

On Tom's first day in the country, he writes to his brother and his mother. This week you are going to complete letters and postcards as if you were Tom.

Postcards:

These are short introductions – they could be read by anyone as they are not in an envelope so are not very personal. They tend to have a picture on one side and then brief/y details about what has been seen or done. They are very informal.

Letters:

These are longer (aim for at least a page). This week they are both informal because they are to members of Tom's family. But, he will write differently to his mum and his brother.

He will want to ensure his mother is not worried so may be more upbeat to her, he will include descriptions and nice things that happen and some feelings but to make his mum feel loved not concerned.

To Peter, he may be more honest, how he really feels – boredom, lonely, frustrated at the beginning. Then later letters may be about the garden and the adventure he has had (was it a dream?) It will be descriptive so his brother can imagine what it is like.

Grammar:

This week I want you to focus on cohesion in your writing without repeatedly using 'and then'. On purple mash there is an activity to use a range of words and phrases instead of then, try this to help you. Think about the vocabulary you use and how you can use noun phrases and relative clauses (who, which, that) in your writing.

Having watched the clip, try these letters and postcards. Read through carefully and ensure you haven't forgotten your punctuation – read them to a member of your family and see what they think, have they any way to make it better? Try that idea next time. If you are able, you could put your best letter onto purple mash, either copied into an email or one of the writing frames, then your teacher can see it. Have fun.

1) Postcard to Peter – write a postcard to Peter about the flat and what it is like. You could draw a picture for the reverse too.

2) Letter to Mum – on the day you arrive at your Aunt and Uncles write back to mother to reassure her that you are okay and are behaving – what interesting facts could you include?

3) Letter to Peter – During your first few days, you are bored because there is no garden and you can't go out and have nothing much to do – jigsaws, reading. Write to Peter telling him about the flat and what it is like (use all your senses) and how you feel. Include descriptions of your Aunt, your Uncle and the old lady upstairs. Maybe he could add little drawings too?

4) Letter to Peter 2 – After discovering the garden one night, write to Peter to tell him about the place you have discovered – garden and house and the clock that strikes 13 times. Are they ghosts? Is it a dream? How do you feel now? Make Peter excited about the adventure too. Remember to ask Peter how he is too.

Well done for having a go at the work we are setting. Keep on going.