

Summer Term Week 2 - Tom's Midnight garden

Please watch the second episode of the story on youtube

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

This week we are going to focus on 2 types of writing – discussion and description.

1. Discussion Text

Discussion texts look at a question and give ideas from both sides to balance the arguments, then they conclude with a final opinion (the writers)

Example:

Should Children Wear School Uniforms?

There are many arguments for, and lots against children wearing school uniforms. Some believe that children should wear school uniforms because teachers are able to identify their students when they go on excursions, and it stops children competing for who wears the nicest clothes. However, some suggest that children should not wear school uniforms because it is boring and it can cost the parents a lot of money.

The first argument for wearing a school uniform is that people will know what school you come from. On excursions, it is easy for the teachers to know where their children are if they are in their school uniform. This can decrease the chances of children being lost, and it also allows for children to stay safe in their surroundings.

Secondly, school uniforms are a good idea because they make all the children look the same. If there weren't school uniforms, rich children might wear very expensive clothes with brand names, while poor children would not be able to afford these. Pupils would try to compete with each other to have the nicest clothes, and this would mean that parents might have to spend a lot of money buying new and different clothes for their children. In the long run, it would save parents money if their children had a school uniform to wear.

On the other hand, wearing school uniforms is boring. Children are not able to choose their own clothes, even though they like to be individuals.

In addition, school uniforms still cost a lot of money. Some schools may only require you to purchase one type of uniform to wear throughout the whole year, however, most schools require you to purchase a summer, winter and a sports uniform. Also, because the uniforms are to be worn every day, parents will have to buy a couple of sets of each uniform so they don't have to worry about washing them every single night. While some parents may be able to afford new ones for their children, other families may not.

After considering the arguments on both sides of the issue, I believe that children should wear school uniforms, however they should have some say in the style and the colour.

At the start of the episode, Tom and his uncle discuss lying. Tom thinks his relatives have lied about the garden and so wants to find out their views.

Discuss lying with your family:

Is it ever okay to lie?

When is it okay to lie?

Is not saying something (omission) the same as lying?

Is lying to protect someone's feelings okay?

Is there such a thing as a white lie?

From these ideas you are going to write a discussion text – it should include arguments for both sides but then your own opinion to conclude.

These are the features to try to include:

Topic title covers the whole subject. Often a question to be debated.		Writer doesn't take sides - third person makes it impersonal.
Introduction paragraph gives brief idea of both sides of the argument.		Conditional phrases used (e.g. "could" or "may be").
Each point is supported by extra details or elaboration .		Balanced between both sides.
Points for and against are given.		Logical conjunctions link causes and effects.
May be organised as a series of 'point-elaboration' or 'for' ideas then 'against' ideas.		Formal tone .
Abstract nouns (e.g. truth, fairness, belief) may be used.		Present tense is used (unless discussing a historical situation).

Title: **Is it okay to lie?**

2. Description

Tom visits the garden many times, the seasons and the weather change and there are a variety of people and places that he sees.

Write a description of the garden

Write a description of the people or one of the people

Write a description of the river side

You can choose what visit you select. Remember to use all the senses in your writing, also try to include some descriptive devices: similes, metaphors, personification and complex noun phrases.

Think about the way you start sentences – avoid always using the!

Across the green grass carpet...

In the distance....

Above the tree tops...

Next to the twisted oak tree...

Through the secret tunnel in the hedge...

For example:

As the morning begins, the sun washes the garden with a golden glow and the sugar-frosted coating of winter melts from the grass. Birdsong filters in through the glass. The dawn chorus erupts at daybreak as flute-throated thrushes sing their joy. Bobbing robins usually join in, lilting in an age-old melody. We have a garden pond and I can see the frog spawn glistening like mini moons. They even have the dark spots, as if to suggest they are as old and alien as the moon itself. At the end of the garden, there is a small grove of trees. Every year, bluebells burst from the earth with their azure gongs attached. Buzzing bees surf the open spaces from flower to flower, desperately seeking pollen. The pollen looks like floating grains of pixie dust, scattered by the blustery wind.

Gently, the grass always seems to whisper in the spring, like a church full of people all saying ssssh together. The stalks sway with a salsa rhythm, nodding their heads in delight. At night, the wind dies down and a new moon appears, drenching shady glades with silver light. Yipping fox cubs can be heard in the distance and the lonely hoot of an owl sounds like a phantom lost in the darkness.

We want to be able to 'imagine' the garden and 'see' it from your description.

Finding out challenge: Who is Oberon, king of the fairies and which story is he from?

Good luck with these challenges, type in or post photos on your class blog so we can see what you are writing.