

Date:	Period:	45 mins	English Exam
--------------	----------------	----------------	---------------------

What will I be asked to do?	What will I be marked on?	
<p>You will be given an opening line; this should act as the beginning point for you to write the <i>opening</i> to a story.</p> <p>You should remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You are only writing the <i>opening</i> of a story – establishing the protagonist, their situation, their setting. - Try to stick to <i>one character</i> and <i>one main event</i> - Use lots of <i>interesting description</i> to evoke an atmosphere that engages the reader 	Control of overall communication	10 marks
	Craft: creative methods	10 marks
	Sentence Variety	10 marks
	Structure	5 marks
	Vocabulary	5 marks
	Punctuation	5 marks
	Spelling	5 marks

How can I apply what I have learned?

Use one of these opening sentence starters to write the opening of a story. As you do this PRACTISE implementing the skills we have learnt in class.

1. The air turned black all around me....
2. Icy fingers gripped my arm in the darkness...
3. Wandering through the graveyard....
4. A shrill cry echoed in the mist.....
5. The bedroom door handle turned slowly.....
6. Moonlight dripped through the cobweb-draped windows..
7. A single raven circled the crumbling clock tower....
8. It was a thunderous night...

You might like to use these images to get you thinking of ideas and settings





Here are a selection of sentence structures we have been working through in lessons- you might want to try using these in your opening story revision practice.

Sentence Variety with controlled Punctuation

But None More Than Sentence

***But no** creature **more than** this great bear would begin to think that they didn't belong right here.*

The 'as if verb' Pivot

*Then there was a sudden profusion of ferns caught in the sunlight, **as if** the forest was now a hundred miles away.*

Let Loose Sentence

***There was** a sudden warmth to the deep blackness that held me, **the** glossy tree trunks, **the** criss-crossing of a million dark branches, **the** thicker boughs barring my way, **the** undersides of the leaves obscuring the sun, and the crowns of all the trees flickering in the light of a faraway day.*

The Big Because

***Because** it was the so dark that night, the cat...*

If, then, therefore sentence

***If** there was to be any hope of escape, **then** it was imperative that I stay aware of my surroundings, therefore I had to keep my eyes peeled and my ears alive to every sound.*

Simile Starter

***Like a** bird knocked out of the sky, I was thrown to the ground as though for the last time.*

Vocabulary

Attached
Collapsed
Oppress
Deceitful
Hesitate
Devour
Rebellious
Escalate
Hostile
Crucial
Visible
Vulnerable
Dormant
Excluded
Irate

The -ing Sentence

Having no possibility of getting back to where I came from, the way ahead seemed suddenly less daunting.

What else can you add?

Accurate use of ambitious punctuation

Use a semi-colon in place of because, to show effect and cause.

EXAMPLE

In the heart of the unexplored territory, the forest loomed; a labyrinth of twisted branches and impenetrable shadows.

Use a list of adjectives before a colon to define an event, a person or a thing.

EXAMPLE

Shell-like, moss-covered, and skeletal: the ruined church stood as a silent testament to the passage of time

Use two dashes to form a writer's aside.

EXAMPLE

The sun was – as you can imagine – a welcome reprieve for Daniel, as he...

Using personification

Could you craft a paragraph **giving a personal nature / human characteristics to something non-human, / representation in human form?**

Look at this example and underline how the wood has been personified:

The wood stretched before you like a raven's wing, its gnarled branches clawing at the twilight sky. The wind, a restless soul trapped within, moaned through the ancient trees, their leaves rustling like whispered warnings. The ground, uneven and treacherous, seemed to reach out with grasping roots, while skeletal branches, like skeletal fingers, reached down as if to snatch at anything foolish enough to enter. The oppressive silence, broken only by the wind's mournful song, pulsed with a hidden tension, a promise of something unseen lurking in the shadows. It was a wood that held its breath, waiting for the unwary to stumble into its dark embrace.

Structuring a Narrative

- Open with action: in media res- perhaps consider developing the description of the setting to create mood and atmosphere
- Develop with description: who is your character/ and what are they doing, where are they?
- Flashback to show us what led to this moment. This gives us backstory and makes us care...
- End on an enigma: a mystery! Leave us wanting more.

Paragraph your work:

- Long paragraphs for description
- Short sentences for drama
- Use connectives to create fluidity between events, ideas.
- If you have to use speech, use it sparingly and correctly.

Year 8 – Tier 2 Vocabulary

surreptitious

devious

dilemma

realistic

harsh

toxic

abnormal

elaborate

vertical

ambiguity

despite

notion

preposterous

apathy

distort

trivial

circumstances

harass

abruptly

distress

hostile

tension

fragile

prominent

catastrophe

peculiar

wary

clarity

tentative

crucial

adapt

navigate

horizontal

ferocious

visible

antagonize

drastic

agitate

naive

anxious

vulnerable

exaggerate

tenacious

unique

nebulous

pivotal

contradiction

intimidate

instance

escalate