

NARRATIVE WRITING BOOSTER PACK





WELCOME TO YOUR

NARRATIVE WRITING BOOSTER PACK



Written by Mitchell Luke for pre-teens
Owner and Lead Tutor at mlukenglish.com

Hello! My name is Mitch, and I'm so glad that you're taking the time to look over this Narrative Writing Booster Pack (even if it's just because somebody made you—I knew it, haha)!

Before we get started, I wonder if you'll mind too much if I be a little self-indulgent and tell you a few things about me?

I'm guessing you said yes? Well, I suppose that's the beauty of a **rhetorical question**. I'll never know...

So, I grew up and went to school in a place called Dudley, a town in the freezing, foggy and forbidding middle of England. It's not that terrible really; I was just using some **alliteration** and **tripling** to keep you interested. Believe it or not, but I loved my English classes at school so much that I decided to study English language and literature at university. Crazy guy, right? After that, I scrimped and saved just enough money to buy a plane ticket to China, where I taught Chinese children how to write in English. That was it; I was hooked! I went on to teach writing in Peru, Bolivia and Spain for years before returning to England to set up my online tutoring platform and teach everything I know to brilliant students just like you!

Well, surely that's enough self indulgence now. I hear you screaming at the page. Let's find out what's next!





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CONTENTS

Oh, I'm so sorry, we haven't quite gotten to the part you've been absolutely dying to get to yet.

First, let's take a quick look at what we're going to be getting up to (I'll read it too because I'm rather forgetful. In fact, I've been forgetting things for as long as I can remember)!



Page 1 - Introduction page (yes, they know Mitch, they just read it)

Page 2 - This page (oh come on, you're just being silly now)

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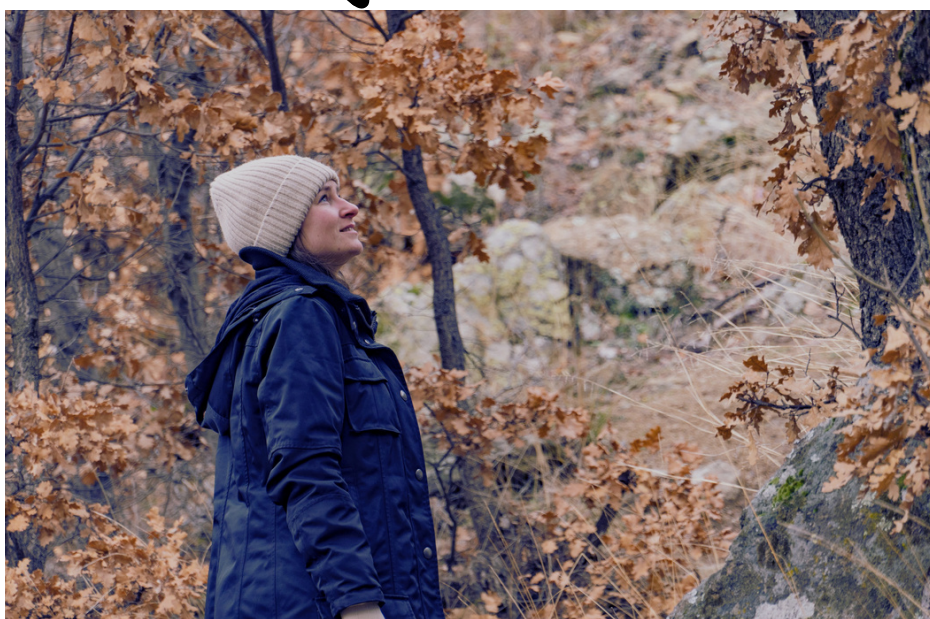
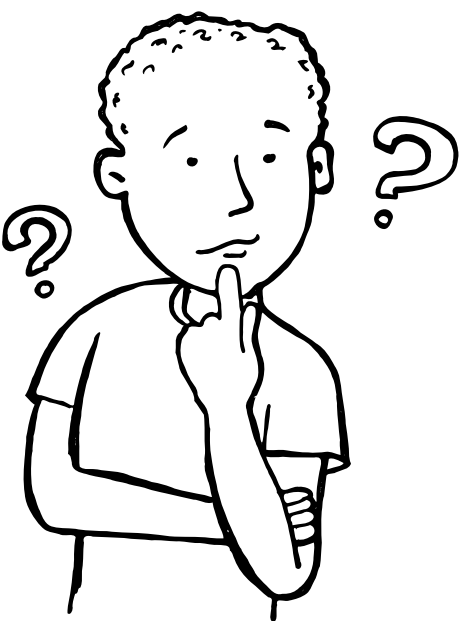


SETTING DESCRIPTION EXAMPLES

Two students* were asked to write a setting description based on this image. Let's see how they both did!

*I got their parents' permission to use their work.

Describing the setting of your story effectively helps the reader to picture where your story is taking place. If done well, this can immediately hook your reader into the story and get them excited about what's to come!



STUDENT A

The trees were very tall. They had many brown and yellow leaves attached to the branches. The path was scattered with those leaves that had fallen onto the ground. They crunched under my feet as I walked. The trees were blocking out the sun. I could see the blue sky through the criss cross of the tree branches. Birds were squawking in the branches. They were extremely loud.

STUDENT B

Rigid oak trees were giant stone monoliths jutting out at odd angles like legionnaire spears after a bloody and brutal battle. Crimson, brown and yellow leaves, like flames, danced erratically in the low autumnal light. The narrow dirt path was pitted with deep prints of an ominous shape and in places scarred by extinguished flames. The ancient oak structures blocked out much of the sunlight like an impending eclipse, turning the forest floor into a cold, dark and distant place. I shivered. Slivers of light, like razors, shone through the lattice of leaves and onto my raincoat while birds sang unspoken prophecies menacingly, tweeting the unknown fates of no one and everyone. The forest: so strange, so scary, so sinister.

Now that you've read through both of those setting descriptions, you might have a sense of which one you enjoyed reading more. Which one gripped you into the setting more? Did one of them seem more interesting to read?

Whether you thought A or B was better, write down your reasons why in the box next to this one! Look back at the texts and try to think of as many reasons as you can.

Text ____ hooked me into the story more than text ____ because



TEACHER REFLECTIONS



Although I could definitely see some positives in text A, I was far more gripped by text B!

The student used a wide variety of literary devices and writing techniques to make their writing come alive!

Below, let's take a look at some of the techniques which stood out to me.

Metaphor

Powerful verb

Alliteration

Rigid oak trees were giant stone monoliths **jutting** out at odd angles

like legionnaire spears after a bloody and brutal battle. Crimson,

brown and yellow leaves, like flames, **danced erratically** in the low

autumnal light. The narrow dirt path was pitted with deep prints of

an ominous shape and in places scarred by extinguished flames. The

ancient oak structures blocked out much of the sunlight like an

impending eclipse, turning the forest floor into a cold, dark and

distant place. I **shivered**. Slivers of light, like razors, shone through

the lattice of leaves and onto my raincoat while birds sang unspoken

prophecies **menacingly**, **tweeting** the unknown fates of no one and

everyone. The forest: **so strange, so scary, so sinister.**

Onomatopoeia

Interesting adverb

Sibilance

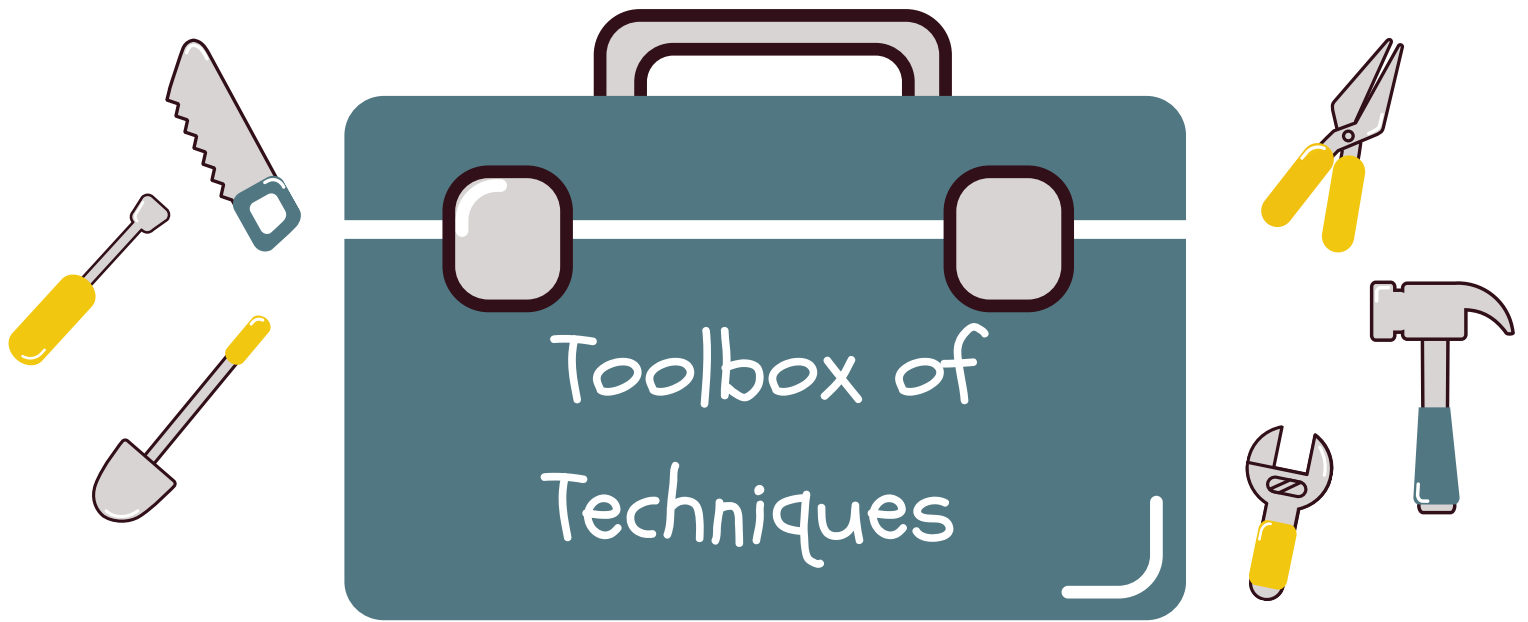
Anaphora

Sensory language

Tripling

Simile

Don't worry if you're not familiar with some or any of these techniques. Inside this Narrative Writing Booster Pack, I'll explain what they all are, how to use them and what their effects are on the reader! Plus, you'll get a chance to practise them for yourself!



The idea here is that whenever you start planning or writing a story, you'll have a 'toolbox of techniques' already in your mind, which you can open and use to your advantage. This will not only make starting off your writing easier but also give that extra boost to the quality of the story!

Simile

A type of figurative language that describes something by comparing it to something else with the words 'like' or 'as'. Similes are great for strengthening the image in the reader's mind of what you're describing.

Examples:

He was as brave as a lion.

Her eyes glistened like diamonds.

Alliteration

Alliteration is when words start with the same letter and, more importantly, the same sound. It can be used to create a mood or for emphasis. Using alliteration can capture the reader's attention and reinforce a point.

Examples:

The bass boomed across the dance floor.

The whispering wind wound its way through the alleys.

Metaphor

A **metaphor** is an imaginative way of describing something by referring to something else which is the same in a particular way. It's similar to a simile but doesn't use 'like' or 'as' instead it often uses the verb 'to be' (is, are, were, was).

Examples:

As he entered the battle, he was a lion.

Her eyes were diamonds glistening in the sun.

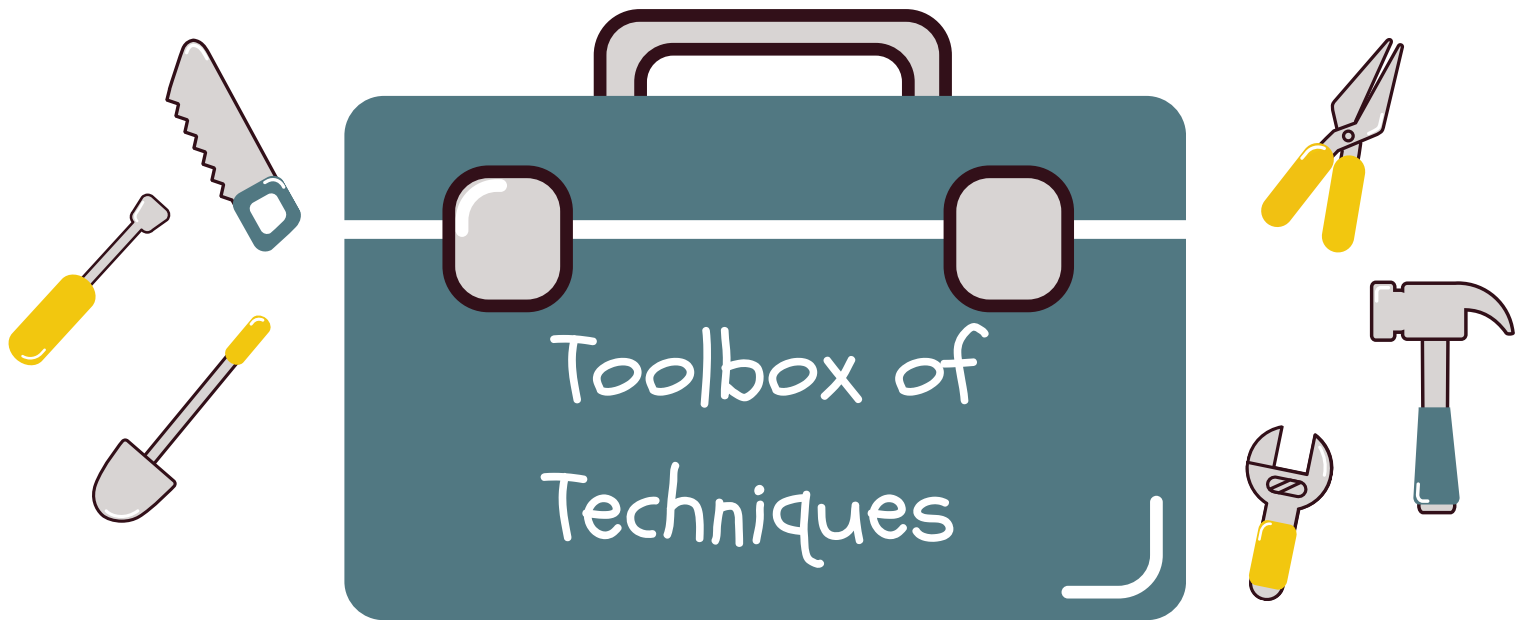
Personification

Personification is when you give human qualities to something that isn't human. This can help readers to connect more easily to what you're describing.

Examples:

The rusty car complained as it was awoken.

The wind whistled through the streets.



Tripling

Ideas, thoughts, events, characters, adjectives or sentences that are presented in threes are often more effective and memorable.

Examples:

The sky was icy, clear and sharp.

The forest was dark, dank and dreary.

Anaphora

Anaphora is a figure of speech in which words repeat at the beginning of successive clauses, phrases, or sentences. It is fantastic for driving emphasis and evoking emotion!

Examples:

Live in the moment. Live for now. Live life.

Be kind. Be humble. Be human.

Sensory language

Sensory language is used to describe the five primary senses – touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste. It helps to provide readers with a more vivid description of something and connect to a specific image, action, or scene.

Examples:

He felt his tongue tingle as he sipped.

The sizzle and pop of the bacon hit his ears.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is a word that names a sound, but also sounds like that sound.

Examples:

Buzz. Honk. Bang. Boom. Pop. Crack. Hiss.

Splat. Tweet. Zoom. Sizzle. Rip. Screech. Twang

Adverbs

An adverb is a word that can modify or describe a verb, adjective, another adverb, or entire sentence. Adverbs can be used to show manner (how something happens), degree (to what extent), place (where), and time (when).

Examples:

Hesitantly, he reached for the door handle.

Marco thrashed at the treasure wildly.

Sibilance

Sibilance is the repetition of 's' sounds. It increases the "musical" quality of words in a group, making them stand out to the reader. It also encourages the reader to spend more time looking at, sounding out, and thinking about those words.

Examples:

This is solely a snapshot of Sam's sinisterness.
He received the sobering news with sadness.

MINI-QUIZ

“Try out this multiple choice mini-quiz to test your knowledge of the toolbox of techniques!”



There are, of course, many more literary devices and writing techniques which we can use to enhance our narrative writing. However, if you're using the techniques above well, you will boost your story writing dramatically!

Q1. Tick the two words which are often used in similes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Like
<input type="checkbox"/>	By
<input type="checkbox"/>	As

Q2. Personification gives non-human things which qualities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alien
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human

Q3. Tick the example of a metaphor.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Like a summer's morning, he was bright and cheery.
<input type="checkbox"/>	They were aliens discovering a strange new city.
<input type="checkbox"/>	He is as fast as a cheetah.

Q4. The repetition of words which start with the same letter and sound is called?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Alliteration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sensory language
<input type="checkbox"/>	Simile

Q5. Which of these is not an example of onomatopoeia?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Smash
<input type="checkbox"/>	Was
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boom

Q6. Find the incorrect adverb.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fastly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cautiously
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thoroughly

Q7. Sibilance is a type of alliteration which repeats what sounds?

<input type="checkbox"/>	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	R
<input type="checkbox"/>	S

Q8. Writers use sensory language to...

<input type="checkbox"/>	Be funny
<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe something more vividly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get to the word limit

Q9. 'Find new places. Find new friends. Find yourself.' Is an example of?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sensory language
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metaphor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anaphora



Highlight and label as many features as you can find in this text!

Meandering slowly but freely through the narrow zigzagging alleys of the Moroccan souk, Jack felt like a canary bird which had finally escaped the monotony of its cramped cage and was experiencing the real world for the very first time. The intense aroma of spices, herbs and hot sauces struck his throat sharply and forced out a compressed cough followed by a smirk of excitement. As he continued leisurely past the market vendors, most sitting on small wooden stools smoking cigarettes, he dodged the pocket-sized Hondas and Yamahas whizzing towards him. The market's offerings were vivid in colour, sometimes wacky in nature, but always bound to catch the eye. Rusty hand-painted metal signs for sale hung next to vibrant rugs and crooked candles. The sun was setting, but this souk was just waking up. Jack was a newly freed bird, and his Moroccan adventure had only just begun.



It's your time to shine!

Your task is to write a detailed setting description based on the image below. Try to incorporate some of the 'toolbox of techniques' to make your writing come alive! There's space to write on the next two pages.



Things to consider!

- Think carefully about how you want to present this setting. Will you write in the first person as if you're actually in the city? Or will you write in the third person?
- Which tense will you write in? Past? Present? Future?
- Be sure to proofread your work at the end to check for any spelling, punctuation or grammar mistakes.

Name:

Date:

Congratulations!

You have studied two setting descriptions and identified their differences, learned about lots of brilliant writing techniques and then used those to write your own setting description. Fantastic!

However, our narrative writing journey doesn't end here!

When writing engaging stories, it's important to also consider the following:

- Creating Amazing Characters
- Narrative structure
- Tension and Suspense
- Symbolism
- Plot Twists
- Proofreading and Editing

All of these interesting and incredibly important areas are covered in detail in '**The Narrative Writing Course**' offered on my website.

This is my most popular course for 9-12-year-olds and is made up of eight interactive live lessons taught via Zoom with weekly homework tasks marked in detail by me!

If you think fun, productive and interesting classes on creative writing are your cup of tea, take a look below!





The Narrative Writing Course Description



Your child will leave this stimulating and engaging creative writing course feeling illuminated by the magic of the written word. Eight insightful lessons are spread over an eight-week period, leaving time each week to complete interesting homework tasks where students will have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice and show off their newly found skills.

The intimate class setting of only six children means that each child receives proactive personal guidance from the tutor but also allows for spirited interaction between students. This combination creates a wonderful environment for comfortable creativity while ensuring that each student is fully supported throughout.

In phase one of this particular course, participants will be carefully guided through the fundamental elements of narrative writing. Together, through guided exploration, we will take an in-depth look at the following:

Lesson 1 - Creating Settings and Introductions

A look at some sensational settings from a few of the world's best-loved narratives. How can you create a setting which instantly draws the reader into the world of your story? What's the role of sensory language when describing settings?

Lesson 2 - Developing Characters

Building and developing characters which are both layered and believable isn't always easy! In this lesson, we are guided through the process of character creation. Let's find out what it takes to build a character that your reader is going to love or maybe love to hate! A 'show, don't tell' review is an added bonus in this session.

Lesson 3 - Narrative and Structure

You've carefully considered your setting, created a character which you're proud of, and learned some key writing techniques. But how to start knitting all of that together? Join me to find out in this narrative structure session, which will explore Freytag's pyramid among some other gems!

Lesson 4 - Tension and Suspense

The tension and suspense in your story is going to keep your readers' eyes glued to the pages and their hands hovering over the page corners, ready to turn over and find out what's next! Let's look at some amazing ways to build tension and create suspense in your stories!

Lesson 5 – Literary Devices

Do you know your alliteration from your anaphora? Are you in a muddle over metaphors? Perplexed by personification? Don't worry, I've got you covered in this lovely lesson on literary devices!

Lesson 6 – Symbolism

Maybe you've always wondered why there's almost always a bat ominously flying around in a gothic horror story. Or, why does that author keep referring to a tree? It's got nothing to do with the story, right? Let's discover the magic of symbolism together in this one.

Lesson 7 – Plot Twists

By now, we know what narrative structure is. We even know about Freytag's Pyramid, which is our tried and tested template for creating a narrative that's bound to engage our reader. In this lesson, we learn about arguably everyone's favourite element of stories—the plot twist. – What? You mean it wasn't Freddy who robbed the bank? It was Lucy after all? Mind blown!

Lesson 8 – Editing, Proofreading + Final Project for this Unit

Knowing how to construct an incredible story is brilliant. But, if we can't present it in the right way, it's not going to impress our reader. In this session, we learn not only about the importance of editing and proofreading but also how to do it effectively! – Oops, I meant 'impress'. See, even the teachers have to proofread their work!

All learning will be consolidated with lesson feedback reports, which outline the key features of the lesson and include the homework task for that week, ensuring that the knowledge gained during the lesson can be revisited and reviewed outside of lesson time.

Nearly all of our students who attend phase one of this course go on to phase two of the narrative writing course. However, you also have the opportunity to choose from the below options if you wish!



- Narrative writing -(phase 2)

- Poetry (phase 1)

- Non-fiction writing (phase 1)

- Journalistic Writing (phase 1)



To find out more, enrol your child on an open course or to set up a private course for a group of children, please do visit my website or email me!

I'll be more than happy to help you!

<https://www.mlukenglish.com/groupwritingcourses>

contact@mlukenglish.com

Reviewed by Parents Worldwide



Angie ★ 5

September 18, 2020

Mitchell is a wonderful teacher to my son. He is very nice and patient. Also well prepared for every lesson. My boy enjoys his class so much. We are thankful to have Mitchell. He is definitely more than five stars :)



Ara ★ 5

September 16, 2020

Mitchel is a surprisingly patient and energetic tutor. My 7-year-old kid loves the lessons with him although it is her first time both learning English and learning on-line. I am especially grateful for his diligent efforts in preparing for each lesson, and how he positively reacts to the student even when they are not giving the right answer or fully cooperative.



Michelle ★ 5

August 6, 2020

My kids enjoy so much in Mitchell's class, he's caring and well planned every class. He always asks my kids how they're feeling and teaches them a lot. He's a wonderful teacher!



Jan Soukup - 1st

Software Manager @ Digiteq Automotive | Keen on future vehicles

May 29, 2022, Jan was Mitchell's client

Mitchell has been a private tutor of my children for almost two years. All the lessons take place online, which makes it independent on all the covids, etc. and the kids benefit from them. Not only they advance in English but actually they look forward for the classes, which is amazing, when comparing with they regular school classes.

Mitchell turned out to be really patient and friendly with the kids. He is also able to define and keep the structure of the lessons so that the children always learn something new, without the pressure of the traditional ways of teaching.



Thanks Mitchell! I would like to extend my thanks to you. Because Kyle has got a better result on his report card in comparing with his last year. This year, his grade was 6 out of 7. Once again, thank you for your effort.

11:35



Quiz Answers

Question 1: Like / As

Question 2: Human

Question 3: They were aliens discovering a strange new city.

Question 4: Alliteration

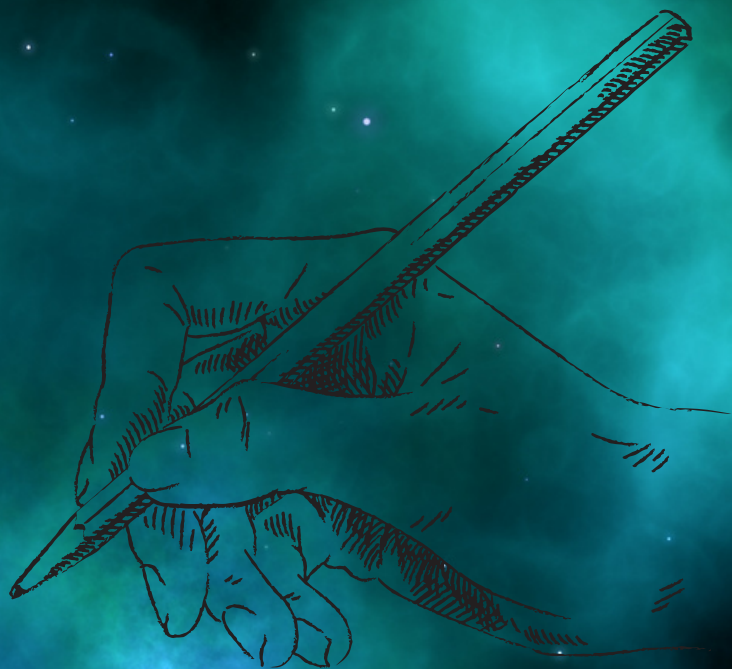
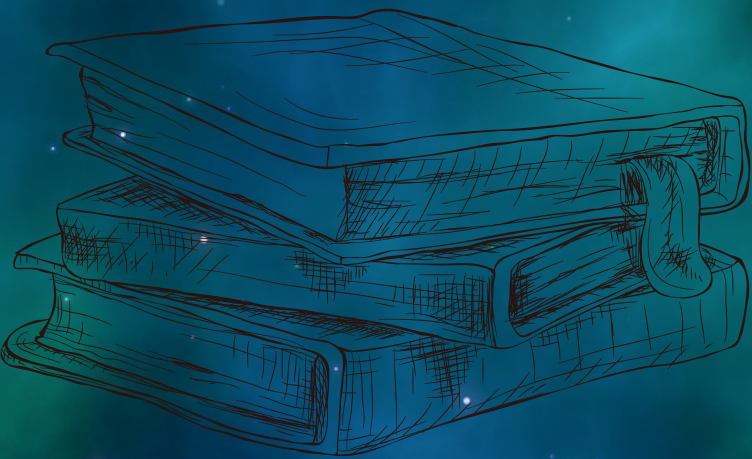
Question 5: Was

Question 6: Fastly

Question 7: S

Question 8: Describe something more vividly

Question 9: Anaphora



THANK YOU

**HAPPY
WRITING**

