

Scary Story Writing

Ardrossan Academy P7-S1 Transition

Mr.Shaw,

English Department

Hello there,

had you still been in school, around about now you would have been making visits to Ardrossan Academy as part of your move from primary school to secondary school. This is what you would have been asked to do in your visits to the English department.

Can we do the same from home?

Learning Intention:

to understand how adjectives and adverbs can change and create the mood of a story

You are being asked to write a scary story, or bits of a scary story. However, there are a few things that a good scary story should have.

You may know what these are, you may not.

To help, click on this link: [https://
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx339j6/articles/zy3sk2p](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx339j6/articles/zy3sk2p)

Watch the short animation and then do the 'fill in the blanks' activity.

- That's right. The purpose of scary stories is to try to frighten the reader by creating atmosphere, suspense and shocks.
- However, in order to do this, we need to create our own creepy CHARACTERS and scary SETTING.
- SETTING is where, and when, a story takes place and it is what we are going to work on first.

Success Criteria

- I have made the story scarier by using effective adjectives and adverbs to make the setting seem spooky

Task 1 – Creating a scary story atmosphere

- A Writer is trying to set the scene and create an atmosphere for her scary story. On the next Slide she is describing a room in an old house where she is about to spend the night. There are some scary ideas, but I don't think she has described them in enough detail. Do you?

- **I entered the room and closed the door behind me. The curtains were drawn, but I could hear the wind and the rain outside. The bedside lamp was lit and there was a fire in the wall directly across from me. Above the fireplace were paintings in frames. To large mirrors were hung high on the walls and on a wooden shelf stood two large brass candlesticks. I could hear the ticking of the grandfather clock.**

Adjectives and Adverbs

- **Adjectives:** are Wow words that add description to a noun. For example, “the dog’s coat” could be changed to, “the dog’s **glossy golden** coat”
- **Adverbs:** are Wow words that add extra description to a verb. For example,
- “the black cat moved across the grass” could be changed to
“the black cat moved **stealthily** and **silently** across the grass”

- See if you can improve the writer's description by rewriting the paragraph and adding in better adjectives and adverbs to make it more tense, creepy and scary.
- Please feel free to add in as much detail as you want about what else is in the room, but remember to keep it scary.
- On the next slide there are a selection of words that you might find in a scary story. You might want to use some of these *WOW* words in your story and perhaps come up with some of your own.

- Sickening silent, silhouetted, sinister, smashed,
solemn, stealthy, stale, abandoned, agonising,
chilling, clammy, cramped, crumbling, darkening,
deafening, decaying, dilapidated, deserted, disgusting,
ear-splitting, eerie, filthy, frozen, gloomy, gruesome,
haunting, horrendous, jagged, lifeless, looming,
miserable, misty, mottled, murky, neglected, petrifying,
repulsive, stomach-turning, rotten, rusty, shadowy,
weathered, terrifying, twisted.

What next?

Building Your Story

- When you are happy with the way you have rewritten your paragraph, the next step is to think about what would happen next.
- Can you now add a paragraph or two (it's up to you) that would move your story on a wee bit, and keep the scary atmosphere? You could explain what has brought you to this place; you could have a conversation with someone who occupies the room; someone could make you jump by suddenly appearing behind you and asking you things. Again, it's up to you.

Last task – We'd love to see your stories so to send in your work, here is my email address:

gw13shawgordon@glow.sch.uk

The best way to send your work is to save what you have done as a file, and then send it to me as an attachment.

Please indicate clearly on your email your **name**, the **primary school** you attend, and the tasks you completed.

Good luck with this. I'll look forward to receiving your work – I hope I'll be able to sleep at night!