

Writing - Summer 1 Week 3 - Home Learning

Session 2

Today's session is all about grammar and sentence work and how we can use different techniques in our writing to make it even better. Today, you will be practicing using the rule of three, a semicolon for independent clauses and adverbs, all things which will help improve your fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing.

Once you've completed the tasks on each page below, you will begin to think about a character who will be your main character in a portal story. When you do this, it is important to explore what must be going on in a character's mind. You should always put yourself into the shoes of the character, to try to imagine how they must be feeling as they discover this passageway to a new world. How must Alice have been feeling as she fell through the never-ending tunnel into Wonderland?

How to share your work:

- Write your answers into your exercise book and take a picture of your work.
- Type your answers directly into the boxes on this page or use Google Docs to edit.

Once you've completed the work, submit your work to Google Classroom following this set of instructions:

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Click the class - Classwork - the assignment.
3. To attach an item, click 'Add or create' and select 'Google Drive', 'Link' or 'File' depending on what type of file you have created.
4. The status of your work will change to 'Turned in'.

Rule of Three

Catherine Fisher uses the rule of three in a sentence to advance the action and inject a sense of pace into her writing. This helps to balance description, action and dialogue.

What is the 'rule of three'?

The rule of three is quite simply listing three things and it using contains one comma and an 'and'.

Catherine Fisher examples:

- ✓ The keeper hung his lantern on a nail, took the key from a dirty string around his neck, and fitted it into the keyhole.
- ✓ With both hands he turned the key, then tugged out the red chain in a shower of rust and pushed the door.
- ✓ He stepped well back, handed the stranger the lantern, and jerked his head.

Now, come up with three of your own sentences using this skill:

- ✓ Click or tap here to enter text.
- ✓ Click or tap here to enter text.
- ✓ Click or tap here to enter text.

Semicolon for Main Clauses

Catherine Fisher chooses to use semicolons in a couple of her sentences.

What is meant by a 'semicolon for main clauses'?

A main clause is a sentence which stands alone, including a subject (noun) and a predicate (part of a sentence which contains a verb to tell us about the subject). A semicolon is a piece of punctuation used to separate two main clauses of equal weighting and for which are linked. This means that they can be used rather than using a conjunction, like *because*.

Catherine Fisher examples:

- ✓ The keeper grinned; he knew fear when he heard it.
- ✓ He had no tongue to speak with; she'd made sure he kept her secrets.

In your opinion, why has she made the choice to use a semicolon instead of a conjunction and what impact does it have on you as the reader?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Can you write two sentences of your own that illustrate the power of the semicolon over the use of a conjunction? E.g. I went to the shop because I needed to get milk. I went to the shop; I needed to get milk.

Conjunction - Click or tap here to enter text.

Semicolon - Click or tap here to enter text.

Conjunction - Click or tap here to enter text.

Semicolon - Click or tap here to enter text.

Adverbs

What is an adverb?

An adverb is a word or phrase that adds to a verb by explain when, where or how the verb is completed.

In the sentences below, the adverb 'slowly' is used to describe how the man enters the room. Look at how adverbs can be moved to different places within a sentence, e.g.

- ✓ The man went in slowly.
- ✓ Slowly, the man went in.
- ✓ The went slowly in.
- ✓ The man slowly went in.

By changing the position of the adverb, we can often either alter the meaning or add emphasis to a sentence. In this instance, by placing the slowly at the end, we infer that the character has a heightened awareness of the situation they are in and therefore deliberately enters with caution.

Try playing around with the adverb position in the following sentences. Consider how it alters the meaning and where the emphasis is best placed.

Cautiously, Samantha crept towards the door that stood before her.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Sadly, the boy stared out the window.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Through the Eye of a Character

First, think of your character (you could base this on someone you know, if that makes it easier). Answer these questions to help you plan:

What are they called?

Click or tap here to enter text.

What do they look like?

Click or tap here to enter text.

What sort of a person are they (miserable/friendly/kind/aggressive)?

Click or tap here to enter text.

What do they say?

Click or tap here to enter text.

What do they do?

Click or tap here to enter text.

How do they treat other people?

Click or tap here to enter text.

How do other people treat them?

Click or tap here to enter text.

How to Write a Character Description

On the next page, you will be composing a **short** piece of descriptive writing based on seeing a mysterious door through the eyes of your character. To do this, you should use a simple opener to drop the reader straight into the action, e.g.:

Samantha stared.

Ali hesitated.

You should also try to use some of the tools we explored in 'The Snow Walker's Son'. Look at this example:

Samantha stared. There, rising out of the cliff, was an unfamiliar door; its metallic panels were tarnished in rust. Paint flaked off the brittle walls that made up its frame and the door handle rattled in the bitter breeze. Slowly, Samantha gazed all around her, took a deep breath and stepped forward.

What tools were used?

Show the setting through the eyes of the main character.	Samantha stared.
Describe the door/portal. Use of a semicolon to join two closely linked sentences.	There, rising out of the cliff, was an unfamiliar door; its metallic panels were tarnished in rust.
Add more detail.	Paint flaked off the brittle walls that made up its frame and the door handle rattled in the bitter breeze.
Include an adverb to hint at how the main character feels.	Slowly,
Use the rule of three to advance the action and inject a sense of pace into writing.	Samantha gazed all around her, took a deep breath and stepped forward.

My Character Description

Now imagine your main character is walking along the road when they come across a mysterious doorway. Describe this through their eyes. Use the model above to help you and remember to just write the very opening as I have above.

Click or tap here to enter text.