

## Class 1: Composition Writing Workshop

### 1. Overview

Writing a good picture composition is not a difficult task if students take note of the main points that they need to observe in their writing.

### 2. Answering questions

To do well for this part, you must write your composition in a fluent and logic flow that is easy and captivating for your marker. It is also important to write your story with a 'twist', 'climax' or an 'excitement' to make it interesting.

Students must also be careful with their grammar usage when they write the composition and know how to improve their expressions with the suitable words and phrases to better describe the story.

There are a few main areas of development which you need to consider writing a good picture comprehension:

1. What is the event?
2. Who is in the story?
3. What are the activities?

### **Example**

Today is my school's annual sports day. The school has organized many activities for the students. The events are going to be held in the school field. There are events such as soccer, sprint relays and basketball. Many students have signed up for the activities. John, Peter and I are taking part in the basketball event. We have trained very hard for the event and hope to do well.

### 3. What is the event?

Students must get an idea on what they are writing which means they must know what the event they are writing about.

Students must write the following:

- name of the event
- where and when it is held
- the character or people in the story

### **Example**

James signed up for a singing competition. The singing competition is happening this Saturday at Bishan Community Centre. James is nervous and excited at the same time. His parents and his best friend, Kate, will be there to support him.

#### **4. Who is in the story?**

It is also important to name the people in your story and give a brief description about them.

- i) Name the people in your story
- ii) Give a quick description of the people

#### ***Example***

When I walked into the stadium, I immediately saw my cheerful and helpful teacher, Mr Tan, helping my classmates to move some sport equipment to the field.

#### **5. What are the activities?**

Students need to set the activities in the story and describe the activities in an orderly manner. Write out what has happened in your story.

- i) State the main activities in your story
- ii) Describe what has happened

#### ***Example***

During the competition, Peter was very nervous when he saw how skilful the other contestants were. As a result of his carelessness, he poured in salt instead of sugar into the cake batter mixture. Mary was livid and they got into a huge disagreement. However, they soon calmed down and collected themselves. They had to make the cake all over again but this time with a tighter timeframe. Mary came up with a plan to maximize their efficiency and to work well together. Peter was strong, thus he was in charge of maxing the cake batter. Mary was careful and had an eye for detail, thus she did the icing decoration for the cake. By capitalising each of their strengths, they were able to make a beautiful chocolate cake within the short timeframe that they had.

#### **6. Develop your story**

When you develop your story, you must make the story a sequence. Divide the story into paragraphs like at the start, in the middle and at the end. Connect your story with 'connecting phrases'

- i) Make sure the story is sequential
- ii) Develop your sequence of story based on paragraphs
  - Start
  - Middle
  - End
- iii) Connect your parts of story with words like 'After this, 'Subsequently' and 'Immediately'

### **7. Describe your activities and people in your story**

Use adjectives, adverbs and phrases to describe the character in your story and activities.

#### *Example*

As I walked towards the starting line, my heart was pounding as I was nervous and anxious. To calm myself, I remembered vividly what my teacher had said about being calm and relaxed in a race.

### **8. How do you make your story more interesting**

- i) Create a 'twist' or 'climax' in your story
- ii) Create a lesson to be learnt from your story – like 'Teamwork is not only to be successful, it is also for building friendship' as your ending

#### *Example*

He was very upset that his friends did not remember his birthday. He walked home sadly and when he opened the door, he saw his friends and family holding a cake. They sang a birthday song for him. The surprise celebration was a success!

#### *Example*

Today, he learnt the importance of being honest. Lying will hurt the feelings of those that are lost to him, causing them to lose trust.

### **9. What are the mistakes you must avoid?**

Be careful with your use of tenses, prepositions and nouns.

### **10. Make sure your sentences are correctly constructed.**

- i) Avoid spelling errors.
- ii) Make sure your handwriting is readable.

## 11. Phrase List

### 11.1 Description of People

#### (a) Describing character

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Polite</li> <li>- Friendly</li> <li>- Trustworthy</li> <li>- Honest</li> <li>- Hardworking</li> <li>- Cheerful</li> <li>- Kind</li> <li>- Sensitive</li> <li>- Sociable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rude</li> <li>- Unfriendly</li> <li>- Unreliable</li> <li>- Dishonest</li> <li>- Stingy</li> <li>- Angry</li> <li>- Lazy</li> <li>- Naughty</li> <li>- Arrogant</li> </ul>

#### (b) Describe physical appearance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attractive</li> <li>- Bald</li> <li>- Beautiful</li> <li>- Chubby</li> <li>- Fit</li> <li>- Gorgeous</li> <li>- Handsome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Muscular</li> <li>- Plump</li> <li>- Presentable</li> <li>- Slender</li> <li>- Tattooed</li> <li>- Thin</li> <li>- Unkempt</li> </ul>
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#### (c) Similes to describe people

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As fit as a fiddle</li> <li>- As hard as nails</li> <li>- As cool as a cucumber</li> <li>- As sharp as tack</li> <li>- As strong as an ox</li> <li>- As sick as a dog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As hungry as a wolf</li> <li>- As thin as a rake</li> <li>- As quiet as a mouse</li> <li>- As quick as a flash</li> <li>- As white as a sheet</li> <li>- As busy as a bee</li> </ul>
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### 11.2 Description of movement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shuffle</li> <li>- Stagger</li> <li>- Bolt</li> <li>- Skip</li> <li>- Sprint</li> <li>- March</li> <li>- Strut</li> <li>- Roll</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swagger</li> <li>- Crawl</li> <li>- Hop</li> <li>- Duck</li> <li>- Leap</li> <li>- Clap</li> <li>- Shrug</li> <li>- Glide</li> </ul>
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### 11.3 Positive and negative feelings

#### (a) Adjectives to describe feelings

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energetic</li> <li>- Grateful</li> <li>- Overjoyed</li> <li>- Invigorated</li> <li>- Animated</li> <li>- Vibrant</li> <li>- Calm</li> <li>- Amused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terrified</li> <li>- Panicky</li> <li>- Fearful</li> <li>- Petrified</li> <li>- Helpless</li> <li>- Overwhelmed</li> <li>- Lethargic</li> <li>- Dejected</li> </ul>

#### (b) Idioms to describe feelings

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On cloud nine</li> <li>- On top of the world</li> <li>- Over the moon</li> <li>- In high spirits</li> <li>- In the zone</li> <li>- Head over heels</li> <li>- Chilled out</li> <li>- On the ball</li> <li>- To carry the torch for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up in arms</li> <li>- Lose your cool</li> <li>- Seeing red</li> <li>- Makes your blood boil</li> <li>- Fed up with</li> <li>- At your wit's end</li> <li>- Shaken up</li> <li>- Have a sinking feeling</li> <li>- Have butterflies in your stomach</li> </ul>

#### 11.4 Description of the environment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Noisy</li><li>- Dilapidated</li><li>- Overcrowded</li><li>- Vast</li><li>- Stifling</li><li>- Organised</li><li>- Spacious</li><li>- Stuffy</li><li>- Stunning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Picturesque</li><li>- Panoramic</li><li>- Bustling</li><li>- Compact</li><li>- Lively</li><li>- Polluted</li><li>- Mysterious</li><li>- Peaceful</li><li>- Charming</li></ul>
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### **Composition #1: A memorable visit to the library**

Every Sunday morning, my parents will bring me to the library to borrow books before heading to the nearby McDonalds for breakfast.

Today when we reached the library, it was not crowded. The morning silence was exceptional and it made me feel very calm and peaceful. My mother made her way towards the cooking section to look for new cookbooks while my father took a stack of newspapers and started reading them at the sitting area.

I sprinted towards the child section and took my time to look through the many shelves of children's books. Reading is my hobby. I read everyday and enjoy reading adventure books the most. I have read most of the books in the adventure books section. Suddenly, I spotted a new series of stories which I have not read before. I picked out the first book and was happy to see that it was brand new. The pages of the book were clean and there were no creases.

I quickly made my way to the sitting area of the library, made myself comfortable on a small soft sofa and started reading. When reading, I like to use my imagination to picture the storyline. I imagine myself being the main character of the story and going on many adventures where I meet new characters and complete exciting missions.

I was so engrossed in the story that time passed quickly. My parents told me that it was time to leave. We had to go to the supermarket to buy groceries and to McDonalds to have our breakfast. I was reluctant to stop reading as the story was so interesting. I decided to borrow the book as well as the rest of the series.

I kept the books securely in my backpack before leaving the library with my parents. I was glad to have borrowed new and interesting books. I cannot wait to reach home and finish the story!

## **Composition #2: An unusual visit to the library**

Every Sunday morning, my parents will bring me to the library to borrow books before heading to the nearby McDonalds for breakfast.

Today, when we reached the library, it was not crowded. The morning silence was exceptional and it made me feel very calm and peaceful.

I took my time to look through the many shelves of books before deciding on a book to read. I made myself comfortable on a small soft sofa and started reading. A few minutes later, my eyes started to become heavy and my eyelids started to close.

Then, I woke up. The silence in the library was ruined by a loud honking sound. I turned my head swiftly to look out of the glass window and was surprised to see cars moving in the air.

I looked around for my parents but I could not see them anymore. Instead, I saw many strange looking people around, dressed differently. They were dressed in either black, white or blue protective suits. I hesitantly approached a staff that was arranging the books on the shelves. I wanted to tap her shoulder to get her attention but to my surprise, my hand went through her body. She was a hologram.

I asked her where I was and she told me that I was in the library. Suddenly, the library surrounding became an open land with many animals roaming around. I saw antelopes galloping, zebras trotting and lions prowling around. I was amazed by how advanced technology was. I reached out my hand hoping to caress the zebra that was walking past me. As I reached my hand out, the surroundings became dazed and I felt like I had fallen into a dark pitch.

Out of a sudden, my eyes opened and I woke up abruptly. I looked around confused and realised that I was back in the library that I was familiar with. I realise that I had a dream about how libraries will be in the future. It was a weird but interesting dream.