

Week 2

# English

Monday 20 April (rough draft) and Tuesday 21 April (neat draft)

Good morning girls-today I would like you to be creative

## **Instructions:**

1. Write a descriptive paragraph of your favourite person or living being. (150-200 words)
2. Remember to plan and edit your work carefully.  
**(Planning must be edited)**
3. Your paragraph must include:
  - Your favourite person's physical appearance.
  - Their personality traits (personality characteristics).
  - Figurative language and concrete description.
4. Below I have added some tips for you to read prior to writing your description.
5. You may type your neat draft and save it or write it in one of your English books.



## TIPS

- Avoid using words like "nice", "good", "pretty", or "awesome", as these do not provide a visual picture in your reader's mind.
- Remember not to leave anything to the reader's imagination, especially when describing sound. Sentences like "The gentle breeze whispered past my ears, leaving a peaceful calm in the meadow" is a great sentence about what can be heard. Because you are describing a person, something like: Her voice was raspy; she sounded like a lion growling at her prey.
- Use descriptive adjectives such as: subsequently
- Sounds can be difficult to describe, as well as tastes and smells. Use similes or metaphors that your reader can relate with to help them catch on to what *you're* experiencing, not to leave anything for them to determine.
- Insert descriptive adjectives to vary your nouns. Don't just say "blue ocean." Describe the actual colours you see in the ocean. Use more descriptive words such as aquamarine or indigo to describe the shade.
- Try personification to give human characteristics to inanimate objects. For example: "The tree stood proudly with her arms stretching toward the sky."
- Be sure to make your paragraph long enough to give an adequate description. Describe the person in as many ways as you can, but check that your paragraph is clear.

## Sample Character Descriptions from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling

- *He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck, although he did have a very large moustache. Mrs Dursley was thin and blonde and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck, which came in very useful as she spent so much of her time craning over garden fences, spying on the neighbours. (p. 1)*
- *A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost completely hidden by a long, shaggy mane of hair and a wild, tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes, glinting like black beetles under all the hair. (p. 46)* From *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (Bantam, 1993)

### **Describe characters' personalities using appearance**

- *Strong character descriptions work on multiple levels. When you describe how a character looks, think about how appearance can expand on personality.*
- *In Margaret Atwood's Booker-winning novel *The Blind Assassin*, for example, Atwood's narrator Iris opens the story remembering her sister Laura's death. Atwood creates a clear sense of Laura's troubled personality by describing her clothing:*
- *'I could picture the smooth oval of Laura's face, her neatly pinned chignon, the dress she would have been wearing: a shirtwaist with a small rounded collar, in a sober colour – navy blue or steel grey or hospital-corridor green. Penitential colours – less like something she'd chosen to put on than like something she'd been locked up in.'* (p. 4)
- *Atwood's description is specific in detail and there are clues to Laura's depressive nature (the 'sober' and 'penitential' colours) in Atwood's description.*