

Short Burst Writing

A guide for teachers and parents/carers

Short burst writing is an activity whereby an object, image or short video clip is used as a starting point to encourage children to write independently, taking the writing in their own direction. This writing should take around 10-15 minutes to complete.

Try and encourage the children to 'look' carefully at the detail and use that to write a brief paragraph that helps bring the object/image alive through sharp description.

You can encourage your child by helping him/her to think through the 'possibilities'. For instance, who is looking into the mirror and what are they thinking?



You can jot down key vocabulary for your child and encourage him/her to make the vocabulary more descriptive and interesting. E.g. if your child says that the lady is "standing beside a lake" ask them, "What colour is the lake?" Or, "What is the lake like?"

Younger children may talk through their ideas and record themselves, or an adult could write down the child's description.

Short Burst Writing in summary:

Step 1 – Choose an image

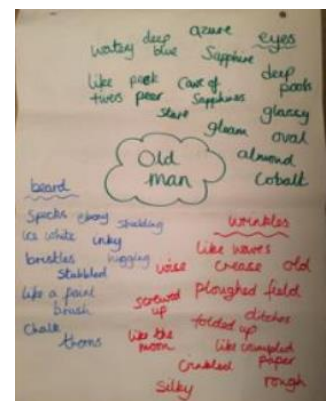
Step 2 – Decide together what you should write about – e.g. man eyes eyebrows beard wrinkles



Step 3 – Gather vocabulary and encourage the child to extend it where possible

Step 4 – Encourage the child to write a paragraph independently using the best possible language

The mysterious man lurks in the shadows. His piercing, ocean eyes like a cave of sapphires, peer. Crescent moon eyebrows curve. Deep, twisted wrinkles smother his cushioned skin. His chalky, thorn beard shields a weathered face.



For more information about this approach see: <https://www.talk4writing.com/>

For a range of images to stimulate writing, updated daily see: <https://www.pobble365.com/>