

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central white area.

# Week 5 – Home Learning

## English

# Outline of task

Over the next two weeks, you are going to be building up towards writing your own story. Just like any author, you will be planning your work in advance, you will need to:

- Plot and outline
- Establish the who, where, when and why.
- Come up with a title, blurb and cover design.
- And... write!

For each piece of work, a template will be added to give you some support. However these are just suggestions, you can set out your work however you feel comfortable.

# Day 1 - Plotting and outlining

## Story premise

A good story premise is a simple one or two sentence explanation of what your story is about.

It must be specific and clearly state who your protagonist (main character) is, what he/she wants and the problem to be overcome.

Use the template on the following page to help you.

Setting (place and time)	
Main character (name, background, what does this character want?)	
Antagonist(s) (relationship to MC, background, what do they want?)	
Situation (what is happening at the beginning of the story?)	
Inciting event (what event upsets the situation and introduces the main conflict?)	
Conflict (How do the characters react, what is at stake, what choices must the MC make?)	

► Now try writing your own story premise...

► See the example given below, can you guess what story this is a premise for?

*Scrooge is a wealthy London commodities trader whose heart has been hardened by a lonely childhood, losing the love of his life and the death of his partner. Now he's a miserly taskmaster who refuses to help the poor.*

# Day 2/3 - Plotting and outlining

## Three-act structure

The three-act structure is the classic method of storytelling where you split your story into three main phases (beginning, middle and end). The middle phase tends to be the longest as this is where the main event of the story takes place.

Over the next couple of days, start thinking about your three phases. Use the templates on the following slides to help you.

# Act 1 - The Beginning.

Story Elements	Scene Ideas
Opening scene (sets the tone for the story and introduces your main character)	
Setup (scenes that introduce the world and supporting characters)	
Inciting incident (the surprise moment that turns the main characters world upside down)	
Call to action (How do the characters react to the inciting incident, what choice must the main character make?)	

# Act 2 - The Middle

Story Elements	Scene Ideas
The Choice (how does the main character decide to deal with the problem?)	
Mounting problems (trouble start as the conflict kicks into high gear, what keeps the main character going?)	
Turning point (set up the stories final act, what new ideas or inspiration has offered the main character hope?)	

# Act 3 - The End

Story Elements	Scene Ideas
Plan/Resolve (all pieces are moved into place for the final part)	
Climax (the main character comes face to face with the antagonist or main obstacle and is victorious... or fails)	
Final part (after the climax, how has the main character changed, has the world changed?)	

# Day 4 - Who, where, when and why

## Character list

Now is the opportunity for you to identify who's who.

Think about details such as the names and age and any extra information, for example, their relationship to the main character, their appearance or their speech.

You may even want to complete a quick sketch of each character.

Use the templates on the following page to help you.

# Appearance

You may want to create a table or brainstorm some ideas for this section. Think about:

- Height
- Body type/build
- Hair
- Eyes
- Prominent features or distinguishing marks
- Style of dress
- Mannerisms or gestures

# Speech

Think about:

- Tone of voice (loud, quiet, harsh, etc.)
- Language or accent
- Favourite phrases

Think back to when we did this for Willie and Zach in Goodnight Mister Tom.

# Behaviour

Think about:

- Personality
- Habits
- Greatest fear
- Biggest secret
- How does this character get along with other characters?

# Day 5 - Who, where, when and why?

## World Building

Now that you have some more detailed information on your characters, it is time to start thinking about the world/place where your story takes place.

Use the questions on the next page to help you start thinking about the setting.

Where is your story located?

What is the time period?

Describe the climate.

Describe the landscape.

How do people typically get around?

Any distinctive sights, sounds and smells of the place?

How many people live here?

Where do they live?

What is the history of the place?

You can set this out however you want. You may want to create a mind map or you might even want to use images.