



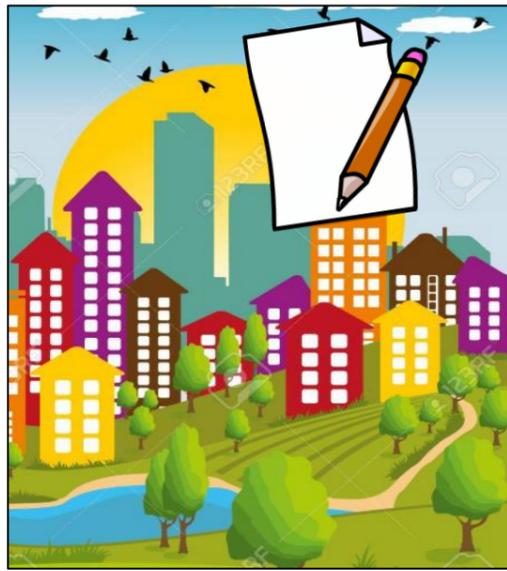
Writing CONTEMPORARY FICTION!

Lower KS2

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview



Contemporary Fiction

Contemporary fiction is a type of story that is set in the modern world.

By 'modern' world, we generally mean any time after the early 20th Century (around 1930).

In a contemporary fiction story, the protagonist (or protagonists) have to overcome some kind of dilemma. - Because the characters in contemporary fiction are normally ordinary people, the writer needs to use characterisation to make strong characters.

-Contemporary fiction is often set in the real or familiar world (everyday settings and characters).

-In many cases, contemporary fiction is influenced by the events that are going on in the world at the time (e.g. war, politics, or events that the writer has experienced).

Language – What words and techniques should I use?

Use description to help the reader to imagine what you are writing about. You can do this by carefully using:

Nouns (things): e.g. rather than 'dog', be more exact, 'hound' or 'puppy.'

Adjectives (describing words): e.g. rather than the big ocean, the 'huge ocean.'

Verbs (actions): e.g. rather than 'ran', you could use 'sprinted' or 'jogged.'

Expanded Noun Phrases: e.g. 'The massive, fierce hound' or 'the tiny, timid puppy.'

Similes, Metaphors and Onomatopoeia should be used when appropriate, for effect.

Long, flowing sentences can be used to describe things. Short, snappy sentences move the action along.



Punctuation should be used for effect and to make things clear. You should use these punctuation marks accurately.

Full Stop At the end of a sentence	Comma To separate items in a series	Question Mark To show that it is a question	Exclamation After an exclamation	Apostrophe To show when a letter or a number has been left out
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Use dialogue to help you to move the action on. “ ”

Show when a character is talking by using inverted commas around the words that are spoken.

Sentence Openers: It was just an ordinary day... Suddenly... The next day... Without warning... Afterwards

Conjunctions: Use a range of coordinating conjunctions (e.g. and, or, but) and subordinating conjunctions (e.g. when, if, because) to link your sentences and ideas together.

Fronted Adverbials: When the adverbial word or phrase (acting as an adverb) is moved to the beginning of the sentence, e.g. 'helplessly, I watched him disappear into the...'

Word Mat

contemporary problem difficulty emotions ideas
 bellowed boomed muttered staggered shrieked roared
 angrily furiously hopelessly carefully lazily
 guide vehicle technology computer excitement
 anxious depressed enthusiastic while which whose

In your writing, remember to also use the spelling, grammar and handwriting rules that you have learnt.

Content – What am I writing about?

Setting

- The setting is the place where the story takes place.
- The settings for contemporary stories are often real or familiar (e.g. a town, school, landmarks in the UK or abroad). Often, something changes normal life in the setting.
- Try to immerse your readers in your setting, through using a range of descriptive techniques (see top right) to appeal to the reader's five senses.



Characters

- Unlike adventure and fantasy stories, the main characters in contemporary fiction are ordinary, everyday people.
- Because they do not fit character types, the writer needs to work harder to build strong characters. Characterisation means helping the reader to know the characters, e.g. their appearance, personality, emotions and past experiences.
- This can be achieved through dialogue and description.
- Protagonists are the main characters who the story is about. They are often the hero of the story. They are not superheroes, but have lots of good qualities, e.g. kindness, bravery, confidence. Villains have bad features, e.g. sneakiness, meanness.



Plot

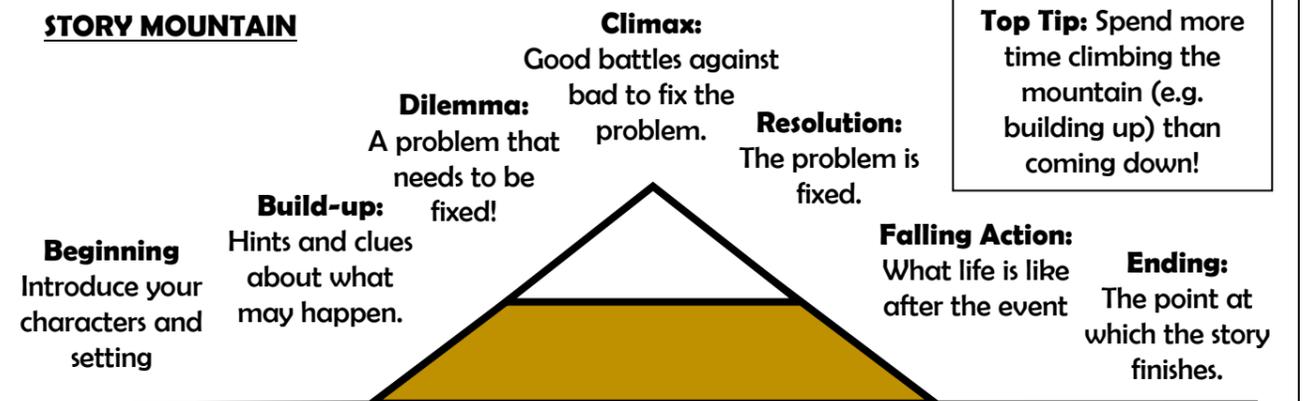
- There needs to be a dilemma or problem to drive the narrative forward.
- Something normally happens to upset the normal balance (e.g. a traumatic event, a conflict between people, or perhaps a new character/ place).
- The dilemma may be influenced by real events (e.g. war, politics, disasters).
- In order to build tension, the writer needs to make it seem difficult for the dilemma to be overcome. They need to spend time 'building up' the problem.



Structure – How do I set my writing out?

Your story needs a title. Titles should have keywords that give the reader more information about the most important thing, character or idea in the story. They should also attract your target reader.

STORY MOUNTAIN



-You should share the characters' emotions and thoughts at each stage of the story.

Important Vocabulary

Contemporary Familiar Dilemma Build-up Climax Resolution Characterisation Protagonist Emotions Personality