

# How to Gain Top Marks in Creative Writing



In creative writing you will either have to write a description of a scene or create a story. Creative writing is in Section B of English SATs, most 11 Plus and Common Entrance exams and in GCSE Paper 1.

Creative writing is worth 40 marks in GCSEs! This is half of the total marks in the exam! You may be asking yourself...



“How can I write *enough* for 40 marks?”

Wrong question!

It's not about *how much* you write; it's about *what* you write. If you structure your text well and include the correct language techniques, you are guaranteed to get higher marks.

## First: You Need to Know These Language Techniques

If you want to learn more about these techniques and how to use them, you'll find everything you need in THE BUMPER BOOK OF DOUBLE LEARNING. Visit: [www.helenjbailey.co.uk](http://www.helenjbailey.co.uk).

**Imagery of the 5 senses**

**Similes**

**Flashback**

**Personification**

**Adverbs**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Metaphors**

**Alliteration**

**Pathetic fallacy**

**Adjectives**

Note: it's not as simple as throwing these techniques into your writing, the real skill is using them in a fluent manner to bring your writing to life and to bring your reader (and examiner) into the story or picture. If you throw language techniques in one after another, instead of spreading them out, your text will read like a shopping list. Boring!

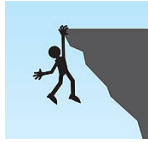


The key is good structure...

## How to Structure Your Story

Use paragraphs: Make sure you have a beginning (introduction, a middle (plot) and an end (resolution).

Never leave on a cliff hanger!



Examiners will assume you couldn't think of a good ending.

### Introduction

Set the tone using pathetic fallacy and personification.

Set the scene and introduce your characters.



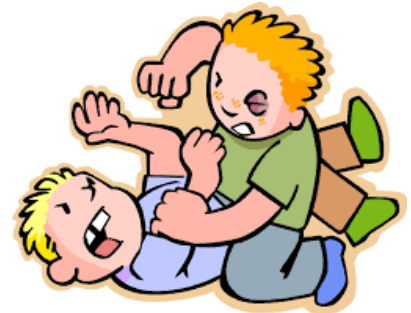
### Middle (plot)

This is where something happens; a problem occurs which needs solving.

Build up the plot by using foreshadowing; drop clues or subtle hints of things to come in order to create tension and suspense.

Create a problem.

Optional: Consider using a change of focus: introduce new characters or events or another setting or time (flash forward or flashback).



Change the pace in the middle – speed up the action to increase tension.

### Ending

Resolution - the problem in the middle is resolved (everyone likes a happy ending). You could also include a revelation - something new has been revealed (this could be a twist to the plot).



Use different language techniques throughout. Imagery of the 5 senses is great for setting the scene. If you forget to use adjectives and adverbs, put them in afterwards. Look for verbs and write the adverb before or after the verb. Add some adjectives before nouns.

Finally, PROOF-READ and correct any mistakes. Replace boring words with exciting words. Use a variety of punctuation, then proof-read again!

