

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING: KS3 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

The Slow-Zoom

1. Begin by describing the **entire scene** *without* focusing on specific details. Aim to capture the **overall atmosphere** and give your reader a **general idea** of what you're describing.
2. **Zoom in** on a part of the image that **stands out** to you. Describe this element of the scene in **more detail**.
3. **Zoom in closer**. Try to **find a specific person** to focus on and describe them and their behaviour.
4. **Zoom in all the way**. Go **inside** your chosen person's mind. Describe their **thoughts and feelings**.

Descriptive Writing Techniques

Technique	Description	Example
Simile	Using 'like' or 'as' to directly compare two things that share similarities.	<i>Her skin was pinched and puckered, like fingertips out of the bath.</i>
Metaphor	Making a comparison between two things that are not immediately alike but which share something in common.	<i>The classroom was a zoo, a howling, hissing, biting, fighting menagerie of feral five year-olds.</i>
Imagery	Using descriptive language to paint a picture in the reader's mind and appeal to the senses.	<i>The moonlight streamed down from the endless sky and shimmered across the gentle waves.</i>
Personification	Giving human characteristics or qualities to something non-human.	<i>The mountains frowned down at the climbing party, as if annoyed at having been woken up.</i>
Sensory description	Describing using the five senses to bring a place to life in the reader's mind.	<i>She gasped as the sour-sweet tang of the rubbish dump jumped up her nostrils and slid down her throat.</i>
Dehumanisation	Describing a person in such a way as to make them sound like an animal or object.	<i>He tore into the chicken leg, tearing off huge chunks of flesh and bolting them down, his chin dripping with grease.</i>

Punctuation

Punctuation	Usage & Example
Full Stop.	Marks the end of a sentence. <i>This is a dog.</i>
Question Mark?	Placed at the end of a sentence that is a question. <i>Who does that dog belong to?</i>
Exclamation Mark!	Use at the end of a sentence that expresses a strong emotion. <i>What a lovely dog you have!</i>
Comma,	Separates subordinate clauses from main clauses (when the subordinate clause is first) or items in a list. <i>Although I like cats, I much prefer dogs. Your dog has long, dark, glossy hair.</i>
Semicolon;	Joins two complete sentences that share a related idea. <i>I love your dog; it is so friendly.</i>
Colon:	Used to introduce a list or explanation. <i>I like lots of different dogs: Poodles, Pugs and especially Pomeranians.</i>
Dash —	Adds extra information to a sentence. <i>The dog can do tricks—he loves to roll.</i>
(Brackets)	Used to enclose extra information. Can be replaced by dashes or commas. <i>The dog (named Spot) can do tricks.</i>
Apostrophe of Omission'	Indicates a missing letter. <i>He doesn't like dogs.</i>
Apostrophe of Possession'	Indicates ownership. <i>This is Toby's dog.</i>
Ellipsis...	Creates a pause or suspense. <i>I opened the door...and I saw...a dog!</i>
Parenthetical commas,	Help to mark off additional information.\. <i>Spot, a dog who was young at heart, could do the most amazing tricks.</i>

Sentence Starters

Starter Type	Example
Noun starter	<i>The sky was thick with choking black smoke.</i>
Adjective pair starter	<i>Relentless and ferocious, the inferno devastated the landscape.</i>
Adverb starter	<i>Pointlessly, the helicopter trickled water onto the blaze.</i>
-ing verb starter	<i>Wailing in terror, the people fled from their houses.</i>
Preposition starter	<i>Above the fire, the smoke cloud stood hundreds of feet in the air, obscuring the sun.</i>
Triple starter	<i>Hissing, roaring and spitting, the fire began to chase after the escaping residents.</i>