

The Dreadful Menace Writing Sequence

Year 5/6

HIAS English Team
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Final version

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Using the Home Learning Materials

The materials

- Each writing booklet contains a sequence of 5 lessons.
- You should set aside time to complete each of the lessons in order.
- Each lesson will take no more than 30 mins to complete.

How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each lesson has a simple explanation and examples to get you started.

How can parents, carers and siblings help?

- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Collect interesting words and phrases on paper / post-its as they read
- Talk to your children about their ideas before they write
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

5 day writing sequence

This sequence is developed around the 'The Dreadful Menace' poem:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWUWVGGw8rQ>

The poem was used as part of the Winter Olympics trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b9Ji7DvsjU>

Teaching sequence:

- 1) Read and enjoy with expression
- 2) Thinking aloud and visualising
- 3) Vocabulary
- 4) Creating and planning
- 5) Writing challenge

The Dreadful Menace

I am the dreadful menace.
The one whose will is done.
The haunting chill upon your neck.
I am the conundrum.

I will summon armies.
Of wind and rain and snow.
I made the black cloud overhead.
The ice, like glass below.

Not you, nor any other.
Can fathom what is nigh.
I will tell you when to jump.
And I'll dictate how high.

The ones that came before you.
Stood strong and tall and brave.
But I stole those dreams away.
Those dreams could not be saved.

But now you stand before me.
Devoid of all dismay.
Could it be? Just maybe.
I'll let you have your day.

Anon

Lesson 1 – Read aloud and enjoy

Listen to the poem:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWUWVGGw8rQ>

- 1) How does the poem make you feel?
- 2) What is the impact of the performance?
- 3) What do you think the poem is about?

Try reading the poem aloud with different volume, pace and expression.

- 4) How does this impact on the overall effect?

Lesson 2 – Read aloud and visualise

Select your favourite line from each verse and illustrate the impression it provides or emotion it evokes.

	Key vocabulary / phrase	Image
<p>I am the dreadful menace. The one whose will is done. The haunting chill upon your neck. I am the conundrum.</p>	<p><i>The haunting chill upon your neck.</i></p>	
<p>I will summon armies. Of wind and rain and snow. I made the black cloud overhead. The ice, like glass below.</p>		
<p>Not you, nor any other. Can fathom what is nigh. I will tell you when to jump. And I'll dictate how high</p>		
<p>The ones that came before you. Stood strong and tall and brave. But I stole those dreams away. Those dreams could not be saved.</p>		
<p>But now you stand before me. Devoid of all dismay. Could it be? Just maybe. I'll let you have your day.</p>		

Lesson 3 – Vocabulary

Read the poem again. **Highlight** or underline the words and phrases which give the impression of power. One has been identified for you:

Words and phrases	Explain how this gives the impression of power
I will summon <u>armies</u> .	summon - armies -

Lesson 4 - Create

Watch the BBC Winter Olympics Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b9Ji7DvsjU>

The poem uses personification: **Personification = attributing human characteristics to something non-human.** In this advert the poem is taken to personify winter.

Choose a different season or weather to personify.

I am...	I cloak...	I scatter...
I spread...		I will...
I can...		I creep...

Lesson 5 – Writing Challenge

Using what you have learnt so far:

- 1) Write a poem, by imitating the original poem and personifying a different season or weather.
- 2) Consider how your poem will be read aloud and the effect this will have on the audience.
- 3) If you can, use PowerPoint to record your poetry performance and use images or film clips to enhance the effect.

HIAS English team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.

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