

Lesson 3 - Writing to describe, character empathy.

Objective:

The aim of this lesson is to better understand the skills involved in writing to describe for an audience. This will be done through the form of writing a postcard. Pupils will have to practise character empathy skills to think about how Clare might have been feeling at that point in time. Some historical knowledge of the period will be helpful.

Resources:

Poland Postcard:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pqaR51wgMaOu7NUbkyVOIKOnw8EigrIg>

Greece Postcard:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LMqzky0Inq_cxx5UwKrC7BfX8mxsPRPC

Blank Postcard:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kzdM0tCHW9GYHywsFg4zRNdJXC2-4ROI>

Overview:

In this lesson, the class will be set the task of pretending to be Clare, and writing postcards to Clare's parents from various places around the world. The video will start with a radio recording of Neville Chamberlain announcing that England has declared war on Germany. Clare was in Poland when this happened, and we have attached a picture of Poland in 1939. The first activity is to lead a discussion around what is going on in the picture and building a word bank of what Clare is seeing, how she is feeling and what she is thinking. Then there will be a chance for her to write this all down on a postcard to send to her family.

We then jump six years later to the end of the war. The class will listen to Churchill delivering his speech on VE day. Clare was in Greece when this happened and we have attached a picture of Greece in 1945. There will then be a chance to write a second postcard to Clare's family, focusing on the differences between this postcard and the last.

To begin the lesson, please press play on the video. When you see this symbol, press pause.



Text of the video

Clare: The most memorable moment of the war for me was when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, announced that we were going to war, listen for yourself (recording) I wanted to write a postcard to my family to let them know how I felt when I heard this. I wanted to tell them exactly how it was for me. Imagine you

were in my shoes – Have a look at this picture of Poland and create a word bank to help describe where I was, how I might have felt, and who I was with.

You should now pause the video. To begin with, make a word bank to describe the image of Poland that Clare showed you. This image is attached as a resource. This can either be done as a whole class or in smaller groups. Pupil's word banks will help them form the body of their postcard.

As this is an exercise in empathy and description there are no right or wrong answers, but if your class are stuck for discussion points:

- This is a picture of Poland in 1939 at the very beginning of the war.
- Your class may want to interpret this picture as Germans who have invaded the town, or the Polish troops preparing themselves for invasion.
- Your class might want to think about how Clare was feeling, it was a scary situation but Clare was brave and had to stay where she was for her job.
- Clare was with a loyal friend named Thwaites, and could speak to colleagues by phone but otherwise she was surrounded by strangers who all spoke a foreign language.

Unpause the video and Clare will set them the task of writing a postcard to her parents.

Text of the video

Now, using that word bank, could you write my family a postcard describing exactly what it was like when I heard the news.

I always use adjectives, different lengths of sentence to keep it interesting and an exciting start.

You can also use:

Expanded noun phrases

Prepositional phrases

Metaphors

Personification

Informal language

And write in first person.

You should now pause the video. A blank postcard template is attached as a resource for this video. You can print these off for your class to write on.

Once pupil's have finished writing their postcards, unpause the video to see Clare's Dad receiving the postcard.

Text of the video

Father: Edith, Daisy come quick it's Clare, she's sent us a letter, oh it's so good to hear from her.

You should now pause the video.

If any of the class would like to read out what they have written now would be a good opportunity. If not then unpause the video to see Clare again, but it is now six years later and we are at the end of the war.

This is your class's chance to write another postcard but from a different perspective.

Text of the video

Clare: It's six years on and now I'm in Greece, the war has just ended, listen! (VE day speech) I want to tell them how different it is for me in Egypt – Here is a picture of Greece, have a look, it's very different to Poland.

My parents want to know every detail, so don't forget to include:

- *Lots of description*
- *How I might have felt at the beginning and end of the war and how I might have changed*
- *Don't forget all those techniques we used earlier!*

You should now pause the video.

If you would like a print out of the image of Greece then you can find that under resources for this lesson.

If you would like a blank postcard template for the class to write on then you can find that under resources for this lesson.

Again, this is an exercise in empathy and description so there are no right or wrong answers.

But if your class are stuck, here are some discussion points:

- How is Greece different to Poland?
- How many other countries has she seen?
- How is Clare feeling now the war is over?
- Is she joining in with the celebrations? If so how? If not, why?
- What is Clare going to do now the war is over?
- What has she learned in the last six years?

Once your class has finished writing their second postcards, unpause the video to see Clare's Dad receive the second letter.

Text of the video

Edith, Daisy come quick it's Clare again, she's sent us another letter.

Again if any of your class would like to read their postcards to the class then now would be a good opportunity.

This is the end of the lesson.