

Creative Writing Options

Descriptions

Dialogue Sets and *Flashbacks*

By J.B. Webster

Grade 4 to final year university

*Note that metaphorical and allegorical writing are
advanced options for description*

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ANECDOTAL COMPOSITIONS

DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

Five W's	Five Particulars	Five Senses
Topic Sentence: General Statement		
1. Who?	1.	1. See
2. Where?	2.	2. Hear
3. When?	3. (Details)	3. Feel
4. What?	4.	4. Smell
5. Why?	5.	5. Taste
Clincher Sentence: General: Repeats Key Words of Topic		

DIALOGUE SET

Structure	Style	Mechanics
1. 5 -7 paragraphs in a set	1. full style treatment in a set	1. Begin quotes with capital
2. paragraph each speaker	2. 1 dec., 1 triple in a set	2. Learn complex punctuation
3. 2-4 sentences per par.	3. thoughts & feelings: main actor	3. Use contractions
4. 2 characters only	4. 3 split quotes in set	4. Said is dead. Star Chart

FLASHBACK PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence	character, location, feelings	Past tense (ed)
Second Sentence	signal the flashback	
Body Sentences	flashback	Past Perfect "had"
Clincher Sentence	Signal the flash forward	
	return to location & feelings of topic	Past Tense

NOTE: Every paragraph & dialogue set must have the **full style treatment**, which means minimums of:

- 6 dress-ups,**
- 6 sentence openers,**
- 1 decoration, and**
- 1 triple.**

Three Paragraph Description: Rural China

STYLE		STRUCTURE
4	Speeding along to the clip, clip, clip of the rails, the girls observed the	Major topic
1	magical countryside of China from the window of the train. The two	Who?
2	teenagers, Joyce and Carole <u>who</u> had been friends since primary school, <u>sat,</u>	Where?
	<u>even huddled</u> close together <u>quietly yet earnestly</u> watching every detail. On	When?
3	a train in southern China they had only hours before flown in from overseas	What?
	to begin their vacation in late August <u>when</u> the harvesting had just begun.	Why?
1, Question	Partly excited but mostly apprehensive, they would soon confront hundreds	
5	of relatives they had never met before <u>because</u> the occasion was to be a	
	clan reunion. Carole would have to speak. Was her Chinese fluent enough	
	to bring <u>careful yet confident</u> greetings from her Canadian family? As they	Minor clincher
	observed the scene in rapture, they felt innocently nervous about what	
	might lie ahead.	
6, 2	The panorama fascinated the girls. With their snow-covered peaks, <u>giant,</u>	Transition to
Simile/Allit	<u>jagged</u> mountains ringed the valley like great granite gods crowding in and	minor topic
1	watching over the scene below. Carpeted green hills <u>rolled and folded</u> at	1, 2
	their feet <u>while</u> mechanically moving and grazing cattle punctuated their	Particulars
4	grassy slopes. Snaking across the lowlands, a peaceful and pleasant river	3
Metaphore	<u>placidly</u> emptied into a lake <u>which</u> dreamily reflected the snowy white hair	
3	of the gods. Neatly the various farms became magically demarcated by	4
2	their colours in myriad shades of yellows, browns, and greens. Where the	5
5	farms daintily intersected, small thatched shelters had been built <u>because</u>	
4	of the vicious heat of the sun. Sitting transfixed, the girls watched a	Minor clincher
	panorama like nothing they had ever seen before.	
d. open, 1	All senses were stimulated. The images flew by the speeding locomotive.	Transition
	Near the <u>reluctant, moving</u> river one could see a gaggle of geese and	minor topic
	goslings <u>while</u> hearing the cattle <u>lowing and bawling</u> on the hillsides and the	See
4	peasants calling to and joking with each other. Feeling the pain of the	Hear
	peasants labouring in the fields, one could <u>readily</u> imagine the ferocious	Feel
6, 5	heat of the scorching sun. Joyce opened a window. While instantly they	
	could smell the freshly cut hay and the lilacs in bloom, it was the pungent	Smell
	perfume of the fresh oranges stacked in pyramids <u>which</u> drove out all other	
1	odours. Both girls jumped to close the window <u>because</u> they were speedily	taste
Triple	engulfed by the gritty taste of dust in the air, the grinding taste of sand in	
	the teeth, and the bittersweet taste of the pain of the women bending	
3	under their loads. Suddenly total darkness as the train plunged into	
d. close	tunnel, blotting out the spectacular view of rural China. Their senses	Major clincher
	deadened.	

A Model Dialogue

"Surely I'd die living in such a tiny, squashed cubicle," Carole exclaimed, "Sardines have it better!"

Pleased that none of the family had heard or understood this criticism since they did not have speak English, Joyce remarked, "But they have all the amenities which is more than you can say for sardines."

While always up to the challenge, Carole was ready for a sisterly spat because she was becoming thoroughly annoyed with Joyce's praise for everything she saw. "In a week or two," Carole insisted, "they will all move in and then you'll see the whole skyscraper draped in Monday morning washing like a Toronto slum."

Joyce retorted, "So what?" She feared it true! She had no smart reply! Critical of things in Canada, Joyce marveled that in China her attitude had changed. Why so positive, why so uncritical, and why so optimistic?

"When the multitude of knickers, briefs, and panties, boxers and bloomers are flapping in the wind, you'll excitedly be arguing the scene demonstrates the superiority of the Chinese instinct and genius for colour."

One of the older men in the party broke in and proposed in perfect and polished English, "We must be going now. You two sisters can continue your conversation over lunch. I have found it most fascinating."

Both sisters were miserably surprised, if not shocked, because they did not enjoy the privacy they had counted on. For good reason Joyce was particularly mortified and ashamed that they had been caught in what the relatives might easily take as an insult. She hoped not. Surely the "uncle" who asked them to continue the debate over lunch, would not insist upon it. Catching a quick glance of the man with the polished BCC English, she quickly dropped her eyes in embarrassment, while concluding: "If it's privacy you want, I guess English is not the language for it."

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Note: The above seven paragraphs form a dialogue set which for stylistic purposes has been treated as a single paragraph with:

- a. A minimum of six dress-ups
- b. At least six sentence openers
- c. A minimum of two decorations: one structural, one stylistic
- d. At least one triple.

Easy Reference Guide
to
Talking and Thinking



★ SAYING/SAID

Neutral		Emotionally	Forcefully
asserted claimed confirmed (that) explained indicated informed maintained pointed out	proposed remarked reported spoke suggested continued	alluded to entreated exclaimed exploded joked objected (to) regretted	alleged (that) convinced disagreed emphasized insisted retorted stressed

★ THINKING

★ ASKING/ASK

believed concluded considered contemplated expected felt meditated mulled over pondered (over) realized reasoned reflected (upon) understood wondered worried (that)	Neutral	Benignly	Forcefully
	appealed avowed interrogated queried questioned sought	begged chided coaxed implored pleaded (pled)	challenged contradicted demanded lashed out ordered quizzed
	★ REPLYING		
	Neutral	Agreeably	Disagreeably
	acknowledged answered persuaded remarked responded vowed	admitted advocated agreed conceded concurred endorsed	advised argued regretted remonstrated retorted warned

Model Flashback

Example 1. Rivalry

Feeling tired, even worn out, John slouched and settled comfortably on the couch, casually flicked on the television, and rather quickly fell asleep with a happy smile on his face. For nearly a year he and his best friend, Peter, had longingly and passionately yearned to date Lorraine, who had become the latest flavour of the month. Frequently they had dreamed about her, and together they had longed to take her out. While he felt a slight, awkward tinge of conscience about his triumphant feelings, they had been smothered like a flame by the joy he felt over the date he had arranged with her. Later Peter would come over, and John would revel in revealing his triumph because they were friends yet rivals. Peter would be jealous. Hence, John fell asleep on the couch smiling while thinking only of his conquest.

Example 2. Loneliness

Sitting in the kitchen, staring at the telephone, Sally felt desperately and deeply despondent, tears streaming down her face. Six months earlier her parents had separated. While she had moved with her mother far across the country, her father had faithfully and confidently promised he would visit every six months. This would have been his first and he had promised they would spend two weeks together at a resort on the Pacific coast of Mexico which she recalled with warm memories. In the last six months, she had not been particularly joyful because of loneliness. A new school, friends hard to find and her mother's reduced financial situation, had left Sally depressed. Happily her one ray of hope sprang from her dreams of sandy beaches and wonderful food, riding the surf and the company of her dad. The phone rang. Father had announced the trip to Mexico and even his visit, were off. An extreme sadness engulfed and overtook Sally as she stared at the ugly, silent kitchen telephone while a stream of tears poured down her cheeks. Deepening depression consumed her.

Example 3. Loss

Shamelessly Jason squatted and mourned beside the lifeless form of his dog as tears flowed freely even uncontrollably. For a fleeting second his mind flashed back three years when Pongo had first arrived, had cried endlessly, and had hid under the couch, not daring to poke her tiny nose into the world which seemed so cold and strange. While he had comforted the small, warm bundle of hair then, Pongo would later console him when friends had snubbed him, when girls had mocked him, and when the big guys had chased him. What a faithful companion! Jason recalled how Pongo had tunneled and snuggled under the covers on cold nights, how she had nuzzled his hand for reassurance when fearful, and how she had squealed with delight when he put on his coat and cap because of what it promised. Scampering along energetically, she had loved walking with him, running from one side of the road to the other, sniffing every tree and clump of grass. As Jason rubbed Pongo's cold ears—oh! How she had once loved that—his tears flowed copiously and shamelessly. She was no more.