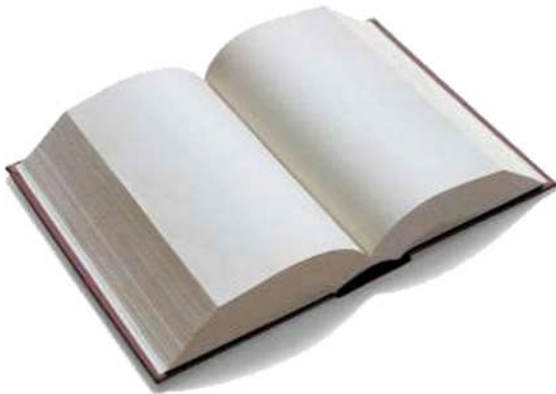


Insider Secrets ***to the Art of Creative Writing***

GET THAT

AI

YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED



J.H. Lim

Foreword

BestWrites was first established in 2007 in a move to change the way English is being taught and, more importantly, to help students from middle-low income families write better. As a student, I hated English lessons. They were simply too boring for me. What made things worse was that, I couldn't write well. During my secondary school days, I constantly failed my English tests to the point that I nearly had to repeat my 1st year. It was disastrous at best. My teachers wrote the same message again and again in my report book – “Jin Han should read more books.”

It was not possible. I didn't like reading. Each time I got my essay back, I could see that I didn't do well. That was it. I never knew why, what went wrong, or how to do better. No one taught me how to write well. They just told me I didn't do well.

But a change of attitude towards reading changed my life forever. Today, I hold a BA in English Language from NUS and a CELTA from Cambridge University. But it was not enough for me. I know that there must be an effective way writing can be taught. That was when I sat down and spent 2 years analysing essay pieces and discovered the elements that are always present in well-written pieces.

This discovery got me excited and I couldn't wait to share it with everyone. The *Insider Secrets to the Art of Creative Writing* was then written and is now available for sale. With this purchase, you are not only helping yourself but you're also helping me help other children whose families cannot afford tuition.

Thank you for being part of this project. Your contribution has made a child's life better.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Rume Wang for his unwavering efforts in the development of the website, Alvin Chua for contributing his essays to the cause of *BestWrites*, former students of *BestWrites* who provided valuable feedback on the materials, their parents who motivated me to further this cause by sending in emails of encouragement, as well as people who have inspired me to change others' lives for the better. There is no greater gift than the gift of giving.

Introduction

This book focuses on the tricks to writing good pieces of narrative/descriptive essays. In the following sections of this book, we will talk about the main structure of an essay and the secrets to how each section can be written with examples. Also included at the end of the book is a paragraph-by-paragraph analysis of an essay as well as some essay pieces.

Purchase the book to read more!

Secrets to Writing an Introduction

As its name implies, an *Introduction* is used to introduce the readers to the essay you are writing about. When you write an introduction, it is useful to imagine yourself in the environment or a starting scene from a movie or drama serials which typically lasts no more than 30-60 seconds.

Like movies, there are various elements you can use to start your essay. These are:

- Descriptions of Place
(Weather/People/Event/Things)
- Monologue/Dialogue
- Sound

Tip #1: the most popular and effective way to start a descriptive essay is with a description of the place your story occurs.

Place (Weather)

Example #1: The morning sun filtered through the large clear panes of glass and turned the plastic divider into an instant mirror, reflecting the faces of the people behind me. The rays of sun flickered as the bus moved under the cover of trees.

This example begins with the time (morning) and weather (sunny). Then, it links from the sun, to the things (plastic divider) at the place the author has chosen. From the plastic divider, it links to the people behind the main character, “me” and back to the events going on in the surrounding.

Example #2: The sidewalk was still bathed in the afternoon sun but thunder rumbling from a faraway place announced the arrival of an impending storm. I

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What to Describe

Describing is no doubt an important component of what constitutes a descriptive essay. It creates a real image and allows readers to visualise and experience the story. However, we do not just describe anything and everything. As a student, I made the same mistake of over-describing. Many students have also asked what they should describe. Again, there must be a reason for you to describe. Some of the reasons are:

- describe to provide information
- describe to create curiosity
- describe to lead
- describe to mislead
- describe to create tension

We shall look at some sample extracts from essays that perform the above functions.

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Example #4: *From the corner of my eye, I could see a police in blue uniform walking in my direction.*

This is an example of over-describing. Police, in our context, wear blue uniforms. Thus, in this case, there is no good reason to be describing the police in so much detail. You can, however, choose to describe the appearance of the police. In cases like this where you do not want to create curiosity for the appearance of the police, you can simply write:

From the corner of my eye, I could see a police walking in my direction.

Describe to Lead

Examples #2 and #3 above are good examples of describing to lead. You are leading readers into a conclusion that the man is a police but again, they can only guess until you reveal the answer.

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Paragraph-by-Paragraph Analysis

A Persistent Headache

A splitting headache shook Craig awake. Was it a symptom of brain hemorrhage? He didn't know but the pain was excruciating. Craig was not one who lets paranoia get the better of him but on this night, he wasn't sure anymore. After all, he lost his parents to unstoppable bleeding in the brain.

He felt constant thumping on the right side of his temple. He raised his right arm, numbed from the overnight pressure his 80kg frame exerted on it. He straightened his hand for a while, letting blood flow to the numbed area. He clenched his fist and opened it. He repeated this action for a few times as he felt needles running over his veins from the sudden rush of blood.

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From Paragraph 1:

A splitting headache shook Craig awake. Was it a symptom of brain hemorrhage? He didn't know but the pain was excruciating. Craig was not one who lets paranoia get the better of him but on this night, he wasn't sure anymore. After all, he lost his parents to unstoppable bleeding in the brain.

The first paragraph introduces the main character with the ongoing scenario. Based on the first line alone, readers will be able to tell that Craig had been asleep until the headache woke him. Notice that we do not have to explicitly tell the readers that "Craig was sleeping. He was in his bedroom." He may or may not be in his bedroom, but at this point in time, readers would naturally assume that and if he is not, we may bring up this point in the body of the essay.

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Essays

The Funeral

Light sobbing could be heard distinctively over the general silence. Many people kept streaming through the open doors of the hall. Many of these people I had never seen before. However, they seemed to know me, casting looks of sympathy. A look that was as strange as the faces of these people.

I stood at the open doors, next to father and I held onto father's pants, tightly, with my little fingers. Father's face was grim. There was nothing especially different about father's expression. His face was set in a typical grim look that bordered close to being expressionless. He gingerly shook all the hands of everyone that walked in through the open doors. I just stood there next to him, not speaking, just staring. As if I was part of the furnishings. It felt like an eternity.

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