

A Magical Festive Tale: Writing Scaffold

Learning objective: To compose a coherent and imaginative Christmas story using descriptive language and varied sentence structures.

Use the prompts below to build your own festive adventure. Think about how your setting changes the mood of the story, and remember to use powerful adjectives to bring your scene to life.

The snow began to fall in soft, velvet flakes, settling upon the cobblestones like a blanket of stardust.

Word bank: shimmering · hushed · festive · whimsical · nevertheless · consequently · amidst · radiant · anticipation · dazzling · suddenly · miraculously

1. Introduction: Set the scene. Where does your story take place, and what is the atmosphere like? Start with: The winter air was crisp as... (2 marks)

2. The Character: Introduce your protagonist. What are they searching for or hoping to find this Christmas Eve? Start with: Deep in the heart of the village, [Character Name] noticed something unusual... (2 marks)

3. The Conflict: What mystery or challenge must the character overcome? Explain why this problem is difficult to solve. Start with: To their surprise, the path ahead was blocked by... (3 marks)

4. The Climax: Describe the moment of discovery or the turning point of the story. Use sensory details. Start with: With a heart full of hope, they reached out and... (3 marks)

5. Resolution: How does the story conclude? Justify your ending—why does this bring peace to your character? Start with: As the clock struck midnight, they realised that the true magic was... (3 marks)

6. Reflection: Compare and contrast your character's feelings at the beginning of the story versus the end. How have they changed? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: What might happen if the magic in your story suddenly disappeared? Write a short paragraph explaining the consequences and how your character would react. Then, rewrite your opening paragraph using only third-person omniscient perspective to describe the scene from high above.