

Year 5 English: Crafting a Victorian-Inspired Christmas Narrative

Learning objective: To analyse and apply literary techniques, vocabulary, and structural elements suitable for a Christmas-themed narrative for Year 5.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of narrative structure and festive descriptive language. Use the answers to refine your creative writing skills.

What is the function of a 'pathetic fallacy' in a Christmas story?

Using weather or the environment to reflect the internal emotions of a character or the mood of the scene, such as a howling wind mirroring a character's loneliness.

Define 'sensory imagery' and provide an example related to a winter scene.

Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses.
Example: 'The crisp, biting air smelled of woodsmoke and pine needles.'

How can you use 'personification' to make the setting feel alive during a winter night?

Giving human qualities to inanimate objects, such as: 'The frost crept across the windowpane, tracing delicate, icy ferns with its frozen fingers.'

Explain the difference between a 'protagonist' and an 'antagonist' in a narrative.

The protagonist is the main character whom the audience follows, while the antagonist is the character or force that opposes them, often creating conflict.

Define 'benevolence' and suggest how it might be a central theme in a Christmas story.

The quality of being well-meaning and kind. It is often a theme where a character overcomes greed or bitterness to perform a selfless act.

What is a 'metaphor' and how could it describe a festive light?

A direct comparison between two unrelated things.
Example: 'The candle was a golden beacon in the velvet darkness.'

Explain why 'foreshadowing' is an effective tool for building suspense.

It provides subtle hints about future plot developments, building anticipation and ensuring the reader remains engaged with the narrative arc.

In a narrative, what does the 'resolution' achieve?

It is the final part of the story where the conflict is settled, loose ends are tied up, and the characters experience a change or realisation.

How does using 'nostalgic' tone affect the reader?

It evokes a sentimental longing for the past, helping the reader feel a warm, emotional connection to the setting or the character's childhood memories.

What is the purpose of a 'cliffhanger' at the end of a chapter?

It ends the section on a moment of high tension or uncertainty, forcing the reader to continue to discover the outcome.