

A Magical Winter's Tale: Writing Scaffold

Learning objective: To plan and structure a narrative story with a festive theme, using descriptive language and varied sentence structures.

Use the prompts below to build your Christmas story. Focus on using ambitious adjectives and show-don't-tell descriptions to bring your setting to life. Remember to check your punctuation for Year 6 expectations.

The snow began to fall in soft, silent flakes, dusting the old village in a blanket of pristine white as the clock struck midnight.

Word bank: shimmering · frost-kissed · anticipation · dazzling · melodiously · hastily · meanwhile · consequently · as if by magic · an ethereal glow

1. Introduction: Set the scene. Describe the wintry atmosphere using sensory details. Start with: The winter wind whispered through the eaves of the cottage, carrying with it the faint scent of... (2 marks)

2. The Inciting Incident: Introduce a mystery or a festive mission. Start with: Suddenly, a peculiar glimmer caught my eye near the frost-covered window; it was... (3 marks)

3. Rising Action: Describe the journey or the challenge faced by the characters. Start with: Determined to uncover the secret, I wrapped my scarf tight and stepped out into the... (3 marks)

4. The Climax: What is the most exciting or magical moment of the story? Start with: My heart hammered against my ribs as I finally reached the source of the golden light, revealing... (4 marks)

5. Resolution: How does the story end? Reflect on the warmth or joy of the season. Start with: As the first light of dawn broke, I realised that the true magic of the season was... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try to incorporate a piece of dialogue between two characters that reveals their excitement about the festive mystery. Remember to use correct speech punctuation!