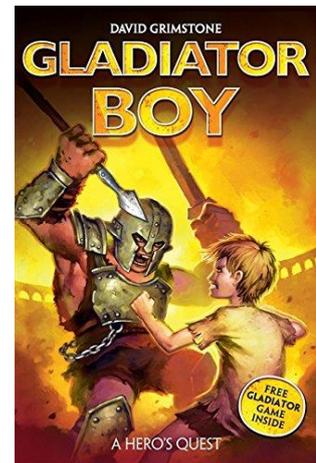


Gladiator Boy – David Grimshaw

Our writing this term will be based on this book. If you want to get a copy and read it that's great, but don't worry as I will provide a model text for you to base your writing on and I have also put a Roman book on Purple Mash for you to read.

We will begin with learning how to write an 'action opening'. Think of all the action stories you know and write a list. If you have any at home, look at the opening pages. Do you notice anything they have in common?



Day 1

independent writing task

Use expanded noun phrases to extend these sentences. Write them in your book.

Example: The fish swam – The rare, endangered fish swam in the large garden pond.

1. *The boy yelled.*
2. *The slave cried.*
3. *The jailer unlocked the cell.*



Look at the picture.

What is happening in the picture?

Who are the characters? What are they doing?

Where are they? How are they feeling?

Why are they fighting?

Who else might be there? What might they be doing?

Your Task

Write 3 paragraphs using the picture and video (you can move the screen around 360° with your mouse) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBuijx_iztQ

Paragraph 1: The doors open.

Paragraph 2: Entering the arena.

Paragraph 3: No choice but to fight.

You can use this sentence starter to help you begin. Crouched down in the darkness, the doors opened...

Day 2

Punctuate direct speech accurately

Expand the noun phrases in these sentences;

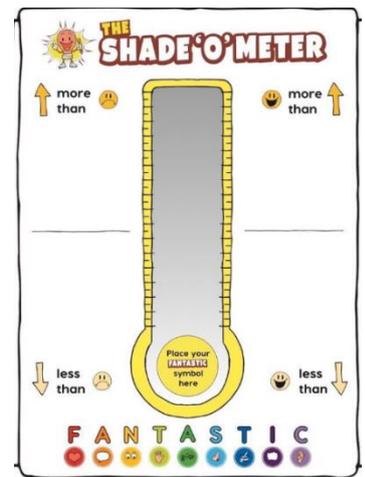
1. His feet burnt. 2. The master jumped. 3. The slaves waited.

What alternatives can you think of for the word 'said'?

Use an online thesaurus to find synonyms. Create a list, thinking about shades of meaning.

Read through the model text. What do you like? Dislike? Write your answers down.

Vocabulary check – which words don't you understand? Look them up.



“Right, get up you horrible lot and move over here!” grumbled the hairy jailer angrily, jangling the keys to the cell.

Read the dialogue above and find the following:

Inverted commas around speech.

Punctuation before close of speech.

Speech verb.

Adverb.

Additional information.

Your task:

Write a short conversation between a jailer and a slave. Punctuate accurately.

Steps to Success

- Inverted commas around speech.
- Punctuation before close of speech.
- Speech verb. Adverb.
- Additional information.

Day 3

Discuss writing similar to that which I will write

Expanded sentences by the addition of adjectives and preposition phrases.

The master shouted.

Expand:

What? (Describe him) Where? How?

Repeat.

Gladius ran forward.

Re read the model text.

How would Decimus be feeling? What would he want to do? What might happen to him?

Take on the role of Decimus and talk about:

- How did you feel when the jailer walked in?
- What does it mean not to be worthy of an audience?

- Describe what the trial masters are like, what are their roles?

Your task is to write a letter home in the role of Decimus.

How would he be feeling?

Create a list of words to describe his emotions (think about degrees of language e.g. ensure words given reflect how desperate he is feeling) Use these in your letter writing.

Break up the letter into describing:

1. Where are they and what are their surroundings like?
2. What they have been asked to do?
3. How they are feeling?
4. What they want the parents to do?

Remember to:

Write in first person

Use a time adverb

Describe how you are feeling, why?

Day 4

understand how language contributes to meaning

Re read the model text.

Create a list of the key events from the model text.

Your task is to re-write the model text as a diary entry in role of one of the Trial Masters.

Which trial master will you be?

With a family member, discuss who you are and what your role might be.

Steps to Success:

- Write in first person as if you are a trial master
- To check meaning of new vocabulary
- To analyse thoughts and actions of characters
- To compose and draft a short diary entry