

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

Lesson 19: Imaginative Writing Task

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Your task: Write a narrative of about 400 to 500 words that begins or ends with the line: *She had promised herself she would not look back.*

You may set your story anywhere, in any time. You will be assessed on structure, characterisation, descriptive language and control of expression.

Worked Example 1

Planning before you write: how would you plan a response to this task?

1. Start with the **conflict**, not the setting. Ask what your character wants and what stops them.
2. Here the given line suggests leaving something behind, so the conflict is a choice: go or stay.
3. Plan the **shape** next. A 400-word story needs one moment, not a whole life. Choose the minute the decision is made.
4. Decide where the given line falls. Using it at the **end** is often stronger, because the whole story then builds towards it.
5. Finally choose two or three **showing** details you will use, so you are not inventing description under pressure.

Plan first: conflict, one moment, where the line falls, then two or three showing details.

Remember: Plan before you write. A short narrative needs **one moment**, not a whole story. Show emotion through detail rather than naming it, and make sure your ending is deliberate.



Question 1: Plan your response before you begin writing.

1. My character and what they want

2. The conflict: what stands in their way

3. The single moment my story covers

4. Where the given line will appear, and why

5. Three showing details I will use (senses, actions, objects)

6. How my story will end



Question 2: Write your narrative below. Continue on the next page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Continue your narrative here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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Model Response and Self-Check: Imaginative Writing Task**Model Response**

The suitcase would not close, and Priya knew it was because she kept adding things that were not clothes. The chipped mug. A photograph curled at one corner. The blue hair tie that had lived on the bathroom tap for as long as she could remember.

Downstairs, the removalists were laughing about something in the hallway. Their voices came up through the floorboards, easy and unbothered, and Priya sat back on her heels and listened to strangers being comfortable in her house.

Her mother appeared in the doorway. She did not come in.

"The van leaves at four," she said.

"I know."

"Priya."

"I know."

Her mother waited a moment longer, then went back down. Priya heard the third step complain under her weight, the way it always had, the way it would now do for somebody else.

She took the mug out of the suitcase. Then the photograph. Then, after a long moment, she put the photograph back in. The hair tie she left on the windowsill, where the afternoon light had bleached a pale stripe into the paint over eleven years.

The suitcase closed.

At the front gate she stopped, one hand on the latch. Behind her the house was doing nothing at all. It was not calling her. It was not making this hard. It was just standing there in the sun with its windows open, the way it had on every ordinary afternoon she had never bothered to remember.

She had promised herself she would not look back.

Check your own response

1. My story covers one moment rather than a long stretch of time.
2. There is a clear conflict, and the reader can tell what my character wants.
3. I have used the given line, and its position is deliberate.
4. I have shown at least one emotion instead of naming it.
5. I have used specific detail rather than general description.
6. My dialogue is punctuated correctly, with a new line for each speaker.
7. I have varied my sentence lengths, including at least one very short sentence.
8. My ending does not simply stop, and it connects back to the beginning.
9. I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

