

Boost Free Lessons - Year 8 English

Lesson 19: Imaginative Writing Task

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Read the scene below.

Jonah waited until the corridor was empty before he opened the locker. It was not his locker. The photograph was exactly where Ellie had said it would be, face down under a maths book, and he took it without looking at it and walked out through the side doors into the rain.

Your task: Rewrite this scene from **Ellie's** perspective, in about 400 to 500 words. Ellie is not in the corridor. You may set your version before, during or after the moment described.

You will be assessed on narrative voice, characterisation, and your control of what the reader is allowed to know.

Worked Example 1

Planning a perspective transformation: what has to change, and what must not?

1. The **events** cannot change. Jonah still takes the photograph, and it still rains.
2. What changes is **access**. Ellie was not there, so she cannot describe the corridor. She can only imagine or be told.
3. Decide what Ellie **knows that Jonah does not**. This is where your version earns its place.
4. Decide what she does **not** know. A perspective is defined by its blind spots as much as its knowledge.
5. Choose your voice last. First person puts the reader inside her reasoning; third person limited keeps a little distance.

Keep the events. Change the access, the knowledge and the blind spots.

Remember: In a perspective transformation the **events** stay fixed. What changes is **access**: what this character can see, what they know, and crucially what they do not.



Question 1: Plan your response before you begin writing.

1. Where Ellie is during the scene, and what she is doing

2. What Ellie knows that Jonah does not

3. What Ellie does not know

4. Why she asked him, and what she has not told him

5. My narrative voice, and why I chose it

6. What the reader should realise by the end



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

[illegible]

Continue your response 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**

I gave him the wrong locker number twice before I got it right, which he will remember later and think was nerves.

From the art room you can see the side doors. I had chosen the seat by the window in Year 7 for reasons I no longer remember, and had kept it out of habit, and now it turned out to be useful, which is the sort of thing that only ever happens by accident.

Rain started at ten past. I counted it as good. Nobody looks at anybody in the rain.

Jonah thinks the photograph is mine. I let him think it, and I am aware that letting is not the same as saying, and I am aware that this is the kind of distinction people make when they already know the answer. It is not mine. It is Dev's, and Dev put it in that locker eleven days ago, and the locker belongs to a boy who has not opened it since the Thursday before that.

Jonah does not know any of this. He knows that I asked, and that I asked him rather than anybody else, and I think he has decided that means something. I have not corrected him about that either.

At quarter past he came out through the side doors with his blazer over his head, walking too fast, the way you walk when you are trying to look like somebody who is only walking. He did not look up at the art room. He would not have thought to.

I stayed where I was until the end of the period. Then I went down.

He was waiting by the gate with the photograph still face down in his hand, and the first thing he said was that he had not looked at it, and the way he said it made me understand that he had wanted to, very badly, and had not.

That is the part I had not planned for. I had worked out every other thing.

Check your own response

1. My version keeps the events of the original scene unchanged.
2. Ellie only describes what she could plausibly know or see.
3. The reader learns something from Ellie that Jonah does not know.
4. There is at least one thing Ellie herself does not know.
5. My narrative voice is consistent throughout.
6. I have shown character through action and detail, not description.
7. My dialogue, if any, is punctuated correctly.
8. The ending gives the reader something the original scene did not.
9. I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

