

Tom's Midnight Garden – Summer Week 5

This week you are going to use the ideas you generated and the plan you made to write your own portal story. It does not have to be really long but should include a range of sentence styles and openers, lots of description and cohesion throughout.

Here is another example of a portal story written by Pie Corbett:

Billy had always been curious. One sunny afternoon, he was walking down Elf Road when he saw an unusual wooden door in the brick wall. The metal handle was shaped like a dragon's mouth. Gently, he turned it and the door creaked open. Inside, there was a huge, dark hall.

On an enormous table, someone had set out a great feast with slices of chicken, bowls of salad, jars of fruit and plates of sweet puddings. Hundreds of tiny people were serving steaming pies, fresh strawberries like gleaming embers and glasses full of creamy drinks. They were dressed in rainbow coloured clothes with scarlet cloaks, pointed mustard yellow shoes and crimson caps. Billy tried to talk to the tiny people but they did not say a word!

In the middle of the table was a glittering dragon carved out of ice and in its beak there was a folded piece of paper.



"Look where you wish, but don't touch a dish."

So, Billy wandered further into the hall, walked past a great fireplace and, at the end, he found a golden cupboard.

Amazed, he opened the door and inside was a golden apple sitting on a silver plate. It smelt so sweet and his mouth was so dry that he picked it up and took a bite. The glistening apple tasted of sunlight! At that very moment, Billy gasped because he had remembered what he had been told.

Instantly, he could hear a thousand mocking voices ringing in his ears like sharp, clanging bells. Billy shuddered and ran from the echoing sound. Clutching the apple, he dashed through the dark hall, past the great table with the tiny people running behind him. Just in time, he found the wooden door that led him back to his own world.

Amazingly, two very strange things happened after Billy reached home. First, Billy planted the apple pips. One grew into a beautiful tree with blossoms of silver and apples of gold that glowed like tiny suns. His mother said that the fruit tasted sweeter than starlight itself. Second, poor Billy never saw the door again, even though he walked up and down Elf Road many times. At school, they said that Billy was always lost in his daydreams. He dreamed of dark halls, fantastic feasts and golden cupboards. Sadly, that other world had disappeared. Well, at least, Billy never found his way back...

Having read this story, you can create a grammar toolkit to ensure you are descriptive in your story;

Focus on learning to write effective descriptions. Draw attention to the use of descriptive lists, well-chosen adjectives and similes to show the reader what things look like. Also, highlight the way in which the prepositions help the reader see where things are placed when describing. Illustrate the toolkit by referring to the story as well as creating new ideas, eg:

comparisons

Complete examples of each focus first before starting your story. Then you can use this and your plan from last week to create your own portal story starring yourself (but in 3rd person) being shut in due to coronavirus and finding a secret portal to another time. Each section in your boxing up last week should be expanded to a paragraph.

You can then do a mini book version of your story on Purple mash too.