



# Year 9 English - The journey



## Essential knowledge



### Success criteria for narrative writing:

- **Keep it simple** – you don't have time to tell a whole life story. Focus on one moment or small event.
- **Keep it realistic** – something believable is often more powerful than something dramatic but over-the-top.
- **Don't rely on dialogue** – use description and inner thoughts instead to bring the scene to life.

Sophisticated vocabulary	Definition
Thoughts & Feelings	
Apprehensive (adj.)	Worried that something bad might happen
Pensive (adj.)	Deep in thought, often sad
Exhilarated (adj.)	Very excited and full of energy
Resentful (adj.)	Angry because something feels unfair
Conflicted (adj.)	Unsure because of mixed feeling
Dialogue Tags	
Murmured (v.)	Spoke very quietly
Snapped (v.)	Spoke angrily and quickly
Whispered (v.)	Spoke in a soft voice
Demanded (v.)	Asked forcefully
Retorted (v.)	Replied sharply or angrily
Time & Change	
Gradually (adv.)	Slowly, over time
Abruptly (adv.)	Suddenly and without warning
Eventually (adv.)	In the end, after some time
Reluctantly (adv.)	Unwillingly or with hesitation
Inevitably (adv.)	Definitely going to happen

### Grammar focus – sentence types:

- **'Not only ... but'**. E.g. Not only was I freezing, but the rain had soaked through every layer of my clothes.
- **Double adjective start**. E.g. Cold and breathless, I stumbled through the darkness, unsure where to turn.
- **2adjectivesx2**. E.g. The sharp, bitter wind cut through my thin, torn jacket.



## Narrative structure

- **Weather** – set the tone and atmosphere through a description of the weather.
- **Environment** – describe the setting in great detail, making sure that it creates the mood that fits your narrative.
- **Character** – describe your main character(s) in great detail. Remember to 'show not tell' important information about them.
- **Recollection** – flashback to an event or memory that connects to the moment your character is in. This can help explain their feelings or actions.
- **Action** – return to the present and include your main action (plus dialogue if applicable)
- **Mystery** – finish your opening with something that makes the reader want to keep reading. This could be a question, a surprising detail, or a moment of curiosity – anything that creates interest without giving everything away.