

# Homework Helper – English Creative Writing

Key Stage 4: Years 11 & 12 (Ages 14–16, GCSE years) · CCEA · ADHD

## The homework

Help me understand what i need to do

## Your question, in your language

Write a story for young adults based on the picture of a person choosing between two paths.

## How a teacher would explain it

### 1. Stage 1: Decoding the Prompt

*CCEA examiners look for 'form, purpose, and audience' to ensure you aren't just writing a generic description.*

1. Identify the **audience** as **young adults** (use mature themes/language).
2. Identify the **form** as a **short story** (needs a beginning, middle, end).
3. Identify the **stimulus** as the **forked path** (this must be central).

### 2. Stage 2: Building the Atmosphere

*High marks (58/88) come from 'engaging' writing that uses imagery to set a mood.*

1. Choose a **mood** (e.g., lonely, hopeful, or anxious).
2. Pick **three colours** from the photo to describe (e.g., **muted gold, ashen sky**).
3. Decide what the **character is carrying** (physical or emotional weight).

## Techniques to use

### Pathetic Fallacy

Giving human emotions to the weather or environment.

*Example:* The **heavy, grey clouds** mirrored my **indecision**.

*Where to use:* Use in the **opening paragraph** to set the mood.

### **Personification**

Giving human traits to non-human objects.

*Example:* The **grass whispered** secrets about the road ahead.

*Where to use:* Use when describing the **natural landscape**.

### **Sibilance**

Repetition of 's' sounds to create a specific atmosphere.

*Example:* The **soft, shifting sands** of the **silent** path.

*Where to use:* Use to create a **tense or quiet** moment.

### **Short Sentences**

Brief sentences used for impact or tension.

*Example:* I **stopped**. I **waited**.

*Where to use:* Use during the **climax** or a moment of **fear**.

## **Mark scheme & method breakdown**

### **Task 1 – Creative Writing Story (50 marks)**

1. [+20] Content is engaging and fits the young adult audience.  
*Tip: Avoid 'childish' plots; think about real-life pressures.*
2. [+20] Structure is organised with clear paragraphing and flow.  
*Tip: Ensure each paragraph has a clear focus.*
3. [+15] Sentence structures are varied (simple, compound, complex).  
*Tip: Don't start every sentence with 'I' or 'The'.*
4. [+15] Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are highly accurate.  
*Tip: Check your use of commas and apostrophes.*

## How to answer

- Focus on **one character** and their **internal thoughts**.
- Use **sensory details** like sound, smell, and touch.
- Include **exactly one** major decision or turning point.
- Vary your **sentence lengths** to create a rhythm.
- Aim for **450–600 words** total.

## Strategies & aids

- Use a **15-minute timer** for the first draft.
- Keep the **image visible** on your screen at all times.
- Use **speech-to-text** if your hands feel 'stuck'.
- Highlight **adjectives in yellow** to see if you have enough detail.

## Your 5-minute plan

1. **Character:** Who are they? (e.g., a runaway, a student).
2. **Conflict:** Why is this choice hard? (e.g., family vs. freedom).
3. **Setting:** What time of day is it? (e.g., bleak dawn).
4. **Ending:** Which path do they take? (Left or Right).