

THE WRITER'S PLACE

The Specialist in Creative Writing

TERM 5

Tips For Parents

READING WITH INTENT

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Is your child reading correctly? Does he have trouble transforming his avid reading habit into fantastic English language grades? Then your child may be reading incorrectly.

It is a well-known fact that picking up the habit of reading may boost English language grades. One often hears teachers claiming how exposure to good language and reading more books may in turn help a child improve his language. While this may be true, simple exposure requires a sizable amount of time before you will see a change in your child's report card. The habit should be picked up when young. On the other hand, what of those who are late in picking up the habit? Surely there is still a way.

Students tend to read books for the plot. This tendency is born from an innate need to escape into another realm. Something we all can relate to from time to time. However, this may not help students as much when it comes to replicating the effect the texts have evoked. That is why simple exposure requires time to be effective, as a child will pick up the storylines faster than the actual techniques that bore them.

Solution? Reading with Intent. Reading for the plot is vastly different from Reading with Intent. While reading for the plot will still help a child to think creatively by adding ideas to their already vast imaginations, it still does not solve the need to express their stories effectively. *(more on next page)*



Testimonials

"My daughter has benefitted from this course. She has shown drastic improvement in her daily writing and oral communication. One of the best Creative Writing schools ever."

Ms Mansy Han, Senior Buyer and parent of Hilary Yee

"Very good exposure to varied styles of writing. Structured and a lot of handholding provided for improving writing skills."

Ms V. Sajini, Teacher of Rulang Primary School
and parent of Suhael Dev

"Very satisfied with my girl's progress. Her primary school teacher has commented that she did very well for her SA1 composition. Thank you!"

Ms Sarah Ong, Homemaker and parent of
Filomena Oh



Announcements!

- **Recommended Reading List** was distributed in Term 4. Parents are encouraged to get these storybooks for your bookworms! Some of them are sold at the centre.
- **Look out** for Term 5 Student's Progress Report!
- **Term 6 school fees:** please make cheque out to "THE WRITER'S PLACE PTE LTD" . Amount is \$218 for 8 lessons.



Tips For Parents (Con't)

Reading with Intent points to the act of reading while keeping in mind the techniques writers employ to create the different effects in the story.

STEPS TO TAKE:

- 1) Read once through for the plot.
- 2) Revisit particular areas in the text that produced an agreeable effect on the reader. For example; a highly tense moment between two characters; an emotionally charged scene; an action-packed chapter.
- 3) Highlight or single out phrases/paragraphs that employ the techniques. (Being a student of The Writer's Place allows you to easily identify these techniques, as every lesson is a practice in said techniques.)
- 4) Some techniques to look out for are:
 - (a) writer's usage of punctuation; well-placed commas and parentheses for example;
 - (b) the wordings used in sentence formation - this is especially crucial for children who struggle with forming ideas into a proper sentence;
 - (c) the grammatical structures employed.
- 5) Experiment with them during TWP lessons on top of the week's newly learnt techniques and phrases.

All forms of expression are a form of struggle. There needs to be an active involvement in the craft in order for one to be dexterous in his art form. Reading actively - Reading with Intent - should be encouraged if not entirely imposed.



Young Geniuses!



Maximum participation to make sure everyone understands.



Benefiting from group work interaction!

Kudos to these students!



Name of child	Level in 2011	Name of school	2011 SA1 EL Paper (Overall)
Maximilian Tay	Primary 3	Nanyang Pri School	87/100
Jorryn Chong	Primary 3	Raffles Girls' Pri School	Band 1
Dillon Lim	Primary 4	SJI Junior	87/100
Tang Wee Theodora	Primary 4	Innova Pri School	86/100
Nicole Tan	Primary 5	Qihua Pri School	80.5/100
Devinya A. Nathan	Primary 5	Fuchun Pri School	Band 1
Jeremy Yeo	Primary 6	Admiralty Pri School	87/100
Ali Bin Mohd Noor	Primary 6	Qihua Pri School	83/100

Story written by Jeremy Yeo
(Primary 6 - Admiralty Primary School)

*Parentheses to show character's thoughts and opinions.

*Ellipsis used to create a trailing off effect.

*A shift in paragraph to show a shift in topic/mood.

*Strategic commas for dramatic effect!

*Rhetorical question to show character's thoughts.

Harold used to be the school tyrant. Students would cringe, cowering in fear and teachers often shook their heads in disdain upon seeing him. He had hardly any friends, apart from his loyal followers (whom I had perceived as rather foolish). One would, indubitably, be courting death to antagonize or insult him. He would most likely fly into a rage and thrash him up heartlessly. It was not until that fateful day that I saw Harold in a different light...

The day dragged on listlessly. Like any other day, Mr. Tan droned on with his never ending lecture. No one had their eyes fixed on Mr. Tan, well, maybe except me. Most of the students were bored to tears and some started to chat animatedly, right under Mr. Tan's nose. He knew it, but he simply glared at us menacingly, not uttering a single word.

When lesson ended, Jared shrieked hysterically. The class was taken aback by shock. Jared's face had turned an ashen hue. Mr. Tan turned around. "Is anything the matter?" he asked, concerned.

Jared paused momentarily. Then, tears started to well up in his eyes. His eyes were red and puffy. Whimpering in sorrow, he said, in halts and hiatuses. "My... my... wallet it's missing!"

We were told to check our school bags. One after another, the students shook their heads. Just as Jared was on the verge of giving up, I saw something black and leathery at the side compartment of my haversack. Upon closer scrutiny, I realised that, it was, unbelievable yet truthfully speaking, Jared's wallet. I gasped. My jaws practically dropped wide open. How, how could it be?

The class stared at me, puzzled. Striding towards me, Mr. Tan took the wallet out of my bag. The class was horrified. Their eyes practically popped out of their sockets as they stood, inarticulate. All eyes were on me. Jared glared looks of daggers at me, "How, how could you steal my wallet?" (more on next page)

*Genius! Using the reaction of others to flesh out the character! Fabulous vocab!

*Detailed description of a usually restless class with the use of specific diction and phrases!

*Show-not-tell

**** Awesome action leading up to the shocking revelation!

*Inverted sentence adds color to your story

* Short impactful sentence

*Apt reaction

Story (Con't)



*Convincing speech →

"But... But... But... I didn't!" I retorted, indignant.

← *Speech tag!

Jared slammed the table and snatched his wallet back. "Stop lying! I'll never trust you again! Fool!" he cursed and swore at me furiously.

*Powerful imagery!

Mr. Tan's eyes darted at me. I knew what it meant and I dragged my feet out of the classroom. Somehow or rather, I felt I heard sarcastic remarks from my classmates ringing at my ear. Then, when I turned back, I saw Jared sniggering away. I knew at once I was tricked! My blood was boiling and I felt like giving him a piece of my mind, but what could I do? A helpless rag doll I was, drifting in the turbulent sea. My heart cried out for someone to uphold justice, but I guess none could hear me. I submitted to my fate; my head hung in shame in front of Mr Tan, like a lamb awaiting slaughter.

← *Apt Metaphor!

Just then, Harold stepped out of the classroom. "Mr. Tan, Jason is not at fault. Jared placed the wallet in Jason's bag on purpose," he said, in a firm yet comforting voice. I was astonished. Harold, Harold, he stood up for me! Of all the people, he was the only one who was willing to help me!

← *Delving into character's thoughts.

*Show-not-tell.

Mr. Tan looked at Harold suspiciously. He then turned and entered the classroom. "Jared, is it true that you sabotaged Jason?" he asked. "Eh... eh..." Jared's voice trailed off as he shuddered in fear. His face had turned a crimson red. "I will have to inform your parents about your misdeed!" Mr. Tan said sternly, looking at Jared who had burst into tears.

*Ending with unexpected twist and turn of phrase!

After school, I saw Harold. He was walking home with an ice popsicle in his hands. I approached him hastily. "Why, why did you bother to help me earlier? I thought you hated me?" I asked. He put his ice popsicle down. He looked at me and said, "It doesn't matter. What matters is that I have helped someone, out of sincerity." Then he left, his silhouette vanishing in the distance. A strange light filled my eyes.

Harold was sure a bully; a bully with a big heart.

(494 words)