



English Department Summer Activity Pack



Are you ready for your adventure?

Welcome to English at Surbiton High School!

We are really excited about getting to know you and finding out what you love about all things literary. This activity pack is for you to get a flavour of what's in store in English at Surbiton High School. Please bring it to your first English lesson to show to your new English teacher.

You don't have to do all of the activities, but do try and have a go at as much as possible to help you feel as ready as possible for September.

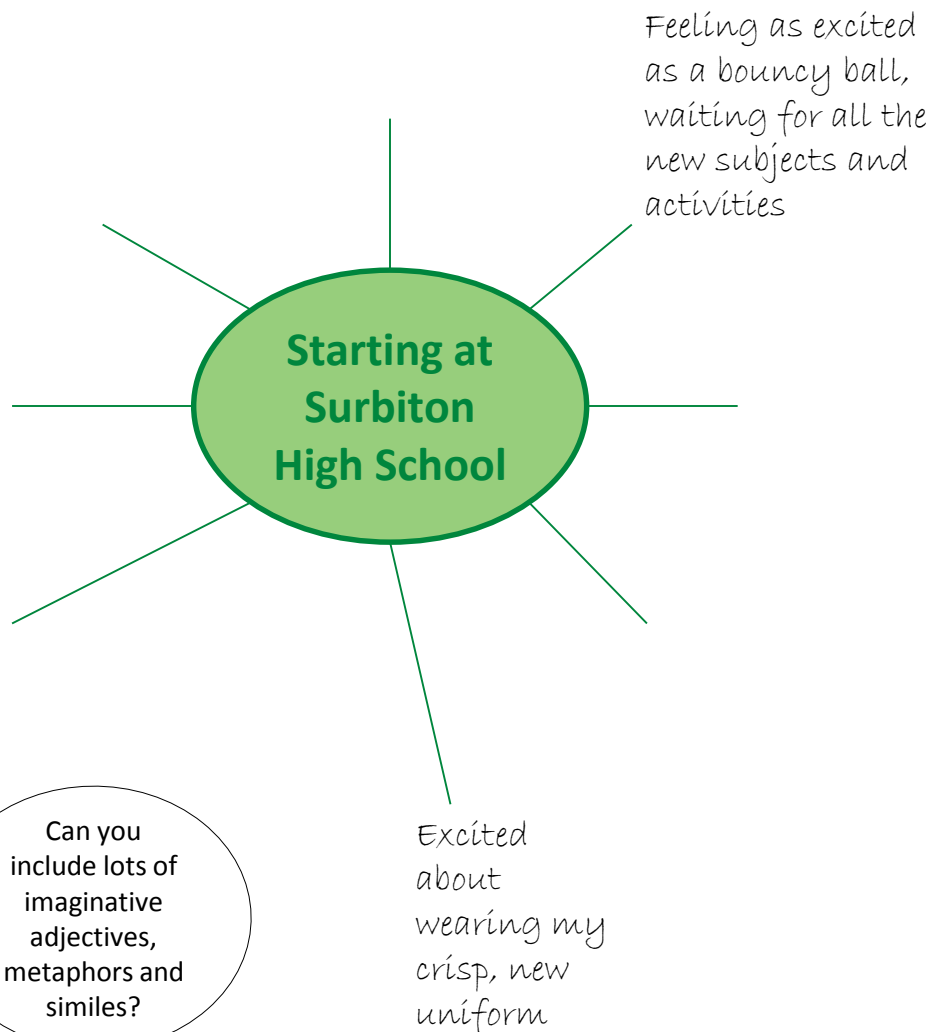
And finally, we need to introduce Linguini, Surbiton High School's very own Language 4 Learning squirrel. You'll find him throughout the pack with hints, tips and ideas.



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Going to a new school can be an adventure. Add ideas to the mind-map below to explain how you feel about starting at Surbiton High School.



In J.R.R. Tolkien's novel *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins goes on an unexpected adventure. Read this section from Chapter Two, where Bilbo leaves in a rush for his epic quest.

Bilbo began to whistle loudly and to forget about the night before. In fact he was just sitting down to a nice little second breakfast in the dining-room by the open window, when in walked Gandalf. "My dear fellow," said he, "whenever are you going to come? What about an early start?-and here you are having breakfast, or whatever you call it, at half past ten! They left you the message, because they could not wait."

"What message?" said poor Mr. Baggins all in a fluster.

"Great Elephants!" said Gandalf, "you are not at all yourself this morning-you have never dusted the mantel- piece!"

"What's that got to do with it? I have had enough to do with washing up for fourteen!"

"If you had dusted the mantelpiece you would have found this just under the clock," said Gandalf, handing Bilbo a note (written, of course, on his own note-paper).

This is what he read:

"Thorin and Company to Burglar Bilbo greeting!

For your hospitality our sincerest thanks, and for your offer of professional assistance our grateful acceptance. Terms: cash on delivery, up to and not exceeding one fourteenth of total profits (if any); all travelling expenses guaranteed in any event; funeral expenses to be defrayed by us or our representatives, if occasion arises and the matter is not otherwise arranged for.

"Thinking it unnecessary to disturb your esteemed repose, we have proceeded in advance to make requisite preparations, and shall await your respected person at the Green Dragon Inn, Bywater, at 11 a.m. sharp. Trusting that you will be punctual.

"We have the honour to remain

"Yours deeply

"Thorin & Co."

"That leaves you just ten minutes. You will have to run," said Gandalf.

"But-" said Bilbo.

"No time for it," said the wizard.

"But-"said Bilbo again.

"No time for that either! Off you go!"

To the end of his days Bilbo could never remember how he found himself outside, without a hat, walking-stick or any money, or anything that he usually took when he went out; leaving his second breakfast half-finished and quite unwashed-up, pushing his keys into Gandalf's hands, and running as fast as his furry feet could carry him down the lane, past the great Mill, across The Water, and then on for a whole mile or more. Very puffed he was, when he got to Bywater just on the stroke of eleven, and found he had come without a pocket-handkerchief!

Tricky vocabulary – how to make it less scary!

Can you match these tricky words with their meanings? Use Linguini's top tips to help you.

hospitality

provided money to pay

expenses

rest

esteemed

costs

repose

valued

defrayed

hosting guests



Can you make a guess based on the rest of the sentence?
Can you divide it up into sections? Does it remind you of any other words? Look it up in a dictionary!

How do you think Bilbo is feeling at this point?

Write down five different adjectives to describe how you think Bilbo feels at this point.

For example: surprised, shaky

Can you create a simile or a metaphor to show these feelings?

For example: as confused as a polar bear in the height of summer



What are the ingredients of good writing?



What methods does Tolkien use in the passage you've just read to make his writing engaging? Match up the method with the example!

Adverbs for descriptive detail

Delaying the main idea for tension

Listing

Swapping the word order

Short sentences for tension

To the end of his days Bilbo could never remember how he found himself outside, without a hat, walking-stick or any money, or anything that he usually took when he went out...

This is what he read:

Very puffed he was...

In fact, he was just sitting down to a nice little second breakfast in the dining-room by the open window, when in walked Gandalf.

Bilbo began to whistle loudly...

Going to this place would be a huge adventure, wouldn't it? In the space below, **plan** a description, explaining how you feel when you see it for the first time.



Now write your descriptive passage here:

Can you use the
clever techniques
that Tolkien uses?
Use the list on p.7 to
help you!



Remember to use all
five senses and use a
range of sentence
openers. Can you
start a sentence with
an adverb?
(Joyfully,...)



These images are different artists' interpretations of the treasure hoard of the dragon, Smaug, who Bilbo meets in the climax of the novel.

Add words around the images to describe what you see.

Read the exciting passage below, where Bilbo sees the dragon for the first time.

He did not wake up of course, but went still on and on, till all sign of the door behind had faded away. He was altogether alone. Soon he thought it was beginning to feel warm. "Is that a kind of a glow I seem to see coming right ahead down there?" he thought. It was. As he went forward it grew and grew, till there was no doubt about it. It was a red light steadily getting redder and redder. Also it was now undoubtedly hot in the tunnel. Wisps of vapour floated up and past him and he began to sweat. A sound, too, began to throb in his ears, a sort of bubbling like the noise of a large pot galloping on the fire, mixed with a rumble as of a gigantic tom-cat purring. This grew to the unmistakable gurgling noise of some vast animal snoring in its sleep down there in the red glow in front of him.

It was at this point that Bilbo stopped. Going on from there was the bravest thing he ever did. The tremendous things that happened afterward were as nothing compared to it. He fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait. At any rate after a short halt go on he did; and you can picture him coming to the end of the tunnel, an opening of much the same size and shape as the door above. Through it peeps the hobbit's little head. Before him lies the great bottommost cellar or dungeon-hall of the ancient dwarves right at the Mountain's root. It is almost dark so that its vastness can only be dimly guessed, but rising from the near side of the rocky floor there is a great glow. The glow of Smaug!

There he lay, a vast red-golden dragon, fast asleep; thrumming came from his jaws and nostrils, and wisps of smoke, but his fires were low in slumber. Beneath him, under all his limbs and his huge coiled tail, and about him on all sides stretching away across the unseen floors, lay countless piles of precious things, gold wrought and unwrought, gems and jewels, and silver red-stained in the ruddy light.

Smaug lay, with wings folded like an immeasurable bat, turned partly on one side, so that the hobbit could see his underparts and his long pale belly crusted with gems and fragments of gold from his long lying on his costly bed. Behind him where the walls were nearest could dimly be seen coats of mail, helms and axes, swords and spears hanging; and there in rows stood great jars and vessels filled with a wealth that could not be guessed. To say that Bilbo's breath was taken away is no description at all. There are no words left to express his staggerment, since

Men changed the language that they learned of elves in the days when all the world was wonderful. Bilbo had heard tell and sing of dragon-hoards before, but the splendour, the lust, the glory of such treasure had never yet come home to him. His heart was filled and pierced with enchantment and with the desire of dwarves; and he gazed motionless, almost forgetting the frightful guardian, at the gold beyond price and count.

He gazed for what seemed an age, before drawn almost against his will, he stole from the shadow of the doorway, across the floor to the nearest edge of the mounds of treasure. Above him the sleeping dragon lay, a dire menace even in his sleep. He grasped a great two-handled cup, as heavy as he could carry, and cast one fearful eye upwards. Smaug stirred a wing, opened a claw, the rumble of his snoring changed its note.

Then Bilbo fled. But the dragon did not wake - not - yet but shifted into other dreams of greed and violence, lying there in his stolen hall while the little hobbit toiled back up the long tunnel. His heart was beating and a more fevered shaking was in his legs than when he was going down, but still he clutched the cup, and his chief thought was: "I've done it! This will show them."

How does Tolkien make this passage so exciting?

In different colours for each, underline:

Abstract nouns

Concrete nouns

Metaphors

Similes

Adverbs

Adjectives



Forgotten what some of these are? <http://www.grammar-monster.com/> is a great website to help you remember!

Answer these questions.

1. Why do you think Tolkien uses so many abstract nouns (like *desire*, *enchantment* and *splendour*)?
2. What is effective about this simile? “*Smaug lay, with wings folded like an immeasurable bat...*”
3. What do you particularly like about how Tolkien has described the dragon’s treasure hoard?

“It is almost dark so that its vastness can only be dimly guessed, but rising from the near side of the rocky floor there is a great glow. The glow of Smaug!”

Smaug is a very impressive creature, isn't he? How is he similar or different to magical creatures in other books you have read? Fill out the table below:

Smaug?
<p>e.g. Smaug is extremely huge.</p>	<p>e.g. Tinkerbell is tiny.</p>

Your turn! Imagine that you have, like Bilbo, just encountered a terrifying, dangerous, yet beautiful supernatural creature.

Draw a picture of the creature in the space below.

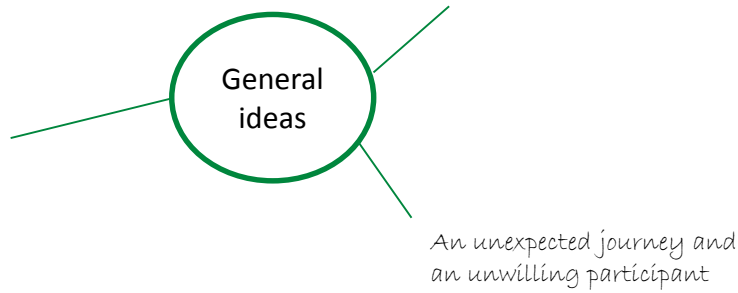
Can you label your picture with lots of adjectives, adverbs, metaphors, similes, onomatopoeia, personification and alliterative descriptions?

Using some of the methods that Tolkien uses, write a poem to convey the fear and excitement you feel when you see the creature.



Your task: to use some of the ideas you have collected so far to write an adventure story, where you meet a ferocious creature.

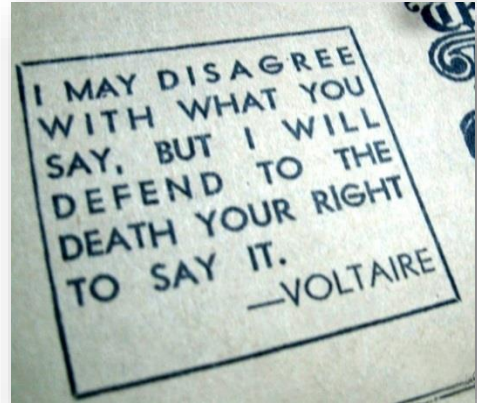
Use the box below to plan the structure of your story.



Exposition: being introduced to the characters and setting the scene	
Complication: introducing a problem and showing how this creates increasing tension and excitement	
Climax: the moment of highest tension in the story	
Resolution: how the problem is solved; how the story ends.	

Write the opening of your story below.

When you arrive in September, we will be writing poems for the National Poetry Day competition. This year's theme is FREEDOM. *Use the space on the next page to create mind maps or mood boards of your ideas.*







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