Good morning, Year 6 – it's session 4, week 2 of English (30th April 2020 – can be extended to 1st May too)

We are going to do some narrative writing today that allows us to practise writing through the eyes of a character. This may take you today and tomorrow too. If you do manage to get it all finished today, there will be an extra, optional, piece of work for you to complete tomorrow. Like the other sessions we have completed this term, this one follows the Talk for Writing unit entitled 'Doors – the world of possibility' by Jamie Thomas.

Now we are ready to write! Work your way through this presentation and follow the instructions for each activity.

You will need:

- Your home learning exercise book to write in.

- Some scrap paper for note taking and drafting.

- A pen and pencil

- A quiet space

Narrative through the eyes of a character.

One of the things I love playing around with as a writer is a character's voice. There are so many avenues available to an author – a character's spoken words, their thoughts, their inner conscience, as well as pathways into their past and previous experiences. Whenever I read great portal stories, I always try to put myself into the shoes of the character, to try to imagine how they must be feeling as they discover this passageway to a new world. How must Alice have been feeling as she fell through the never-ending tunnel into Wonderland?

Today's writing task is to compose a short piece of descriptive writing based on seeing a mysterious door through the eyes of a character. To help you, I have included a mini-toolkit that you may like to explore. I have also included a worked example to illustrate how these tools could be used for the desired effect. You may like to use this model as a scaffold for your own writing.

Character Toolkit: I could …

- Show how the main character (MC) feels by what they do or say.
- Reveal a character's thoughts.
- Explore the range of voices available to an author (narrator/character's spoken words/character's thoughts/direct address to the reader).

In the model text on the next slides, the tools used follow this pattern:

- **Paragraph 1:** Describe the scene & show how MC feels through actions
- **Paragraph 2:** Reveal MC's thoughts through internal monologue
- **Paragraph 3:** Advance action through first person narration
- **Paragraph 4:** Reveal MC's thoughts through internal monologue

Read the model text and note how the toold have been used in each of the four paragraphs:

Samantha stood still, her eyes transfixed upon the door. All rational thought had disappeared; her mind was now plagued with hundreds of questions. For you see, this was not the first time she had seen this door … but this was the first time she had seen it here. And the last time had left her lost, tormented and alone.

No-one believed me…the last time. I can still see their judgmental glances and hear the muffled sniggers. 'Mad', 'delusional' … yet here is the truth – it was real … it is real. She can still be saved.

As I stared at the door, I felt my stomach knot inside of me. Bile rose and stung the back of my throat as bitter tears welled up, blurring my sight. It had returned as the prophecy had promised – but why now? Why here? Sinking to the ground, the argument that erupted inside of me became almost uncontrollable.

Don't do it! Remember the last time – you cannot live through this again! But what is there left to live for? And what if this time I find her? What choice do I have?

Your turn:

Imagine your main character is walking along the beach and then comes across this mysterious doorway. What would they feel or think? What might they do or say? Play around with the toolkit above to compose a short piece of descriptive writing based on seeing a mysterious door through the eyes of a character.

Here is something to get you going:

Jack stopped in his tracks and stared. There, rising up out of the cliff, stood …

Character Toolkit: I could …

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- Reveal a character's thoughts.
- Explore the range of voices available to a writer (narrator, character's spoken words, character's thoughts, direct address to the reader).