

Learning objective: Revising descriptive writing and effective opening lines.

Starter:

Put the title – *Describe your school* – on the board. Ask students to write the first ten lines. Give students a few minutes to start their pieces and then ask for volunteers to read out the first line. See how many students have started, 'My school is' or something similar. Discuss with students how they need to engage the reader's interest with the opening line. Ask them to imagine that they are an examiner marking 500 scripts. Would they be interested to read them all beginning, 'My school is'?

Introduction:

Display a picture of a haunted house on the IWB (images widely available on the internet). Ask students to put a title 'Words and ways to describe a haunted house' and then have a go at writing a list. Give students a few minutes and then take feedback and ideas. Students should add to their lists as you discuss.

Development:

Now ask students to plan an answer to the question, 'Imagine you and a friend come across an empty house in a wood whilst you are on holiday. Describe the house'. Students should not answer the question but should plan their answer under the following headings:

What does the outside (exterior) of the house look like?
What does the inside (interior) of the house look like?
What sort of noises and smells are there?
How does the house make you feel?
Useful words and phrases to use in your description.

Students should take a page to plan this work or use the attached planning grid.

Plenary:

Students should write the first line of their description. Check around to make sure that not everyone has written, 'As the door creaked open ...' or something similar.

What does the exterior (outside) of the house look like?

Useful words and phrases:

What does the interior (inside) of the house look like?

Imagine you and a friend come across an empty house in a wood whilst you are on holiday. Describe the house.

What sort of noises and smells are there?

How does the house make you feel?