

Writing Task or Short Story

Paper delivered at 'Writers, Creative Writing and the Contemporary World' Conference at the University of Portsmouth, July 2004.

Abstract:

For many pupils studying writing, a short story is thought a fit first task. Assigning this with practically no groundwork in writing is to confront our pupils with an almost baffling job of work. How should it start? How should it finish? Who is my main protagonist? How should my story go? All points for discussion. But it is in actually writing a story, and bringing words into play that most find difficult. Studying books in Sixth form is not a fit way to find out how to draft a story. A solution to this is to find tasks which will crack this. A paradigm for this is to commission a short study lacking an important factor which an author usually discounts, forcing discrimination in picking words and construction of grammar. This is why this abstract lacks a profoundly important part of most writing: not a solitary 'e'.*

* Apart from this final inclusion.