

Writing Checklist

Content

- Have I interpreted the task correctly?
- Have I answered the task fully?
- Is all the information relevant to the question?

Style & Register

- Is the register suitable? (formal/informal/neutral)
- Am I following the conventions of the genre?
- Is the style appropriate for the task?
(persuasive/descriptive/etc)
- Can I hold the reader's attention effectively?

Coherence & Cohesion

- Is my writing coherent? Does it make sense?
- Are my ideas organised into clear paragraphs?
- Is my writing cohesive? Are my ideas logically connected?
- Is my use of cohesive devices effective?

Grammar & Vocabulary

- Do I show a range of grammar and vocabulary?
- Is the grammar and vocabulary accurate?
- Can the reader understand the text even if there are some mistakes?



"Through the Portal" Story Planner

Paragraph One: What normal situation could your main character start off in? Their bedroom? The bus? A class at school? Can you create a tone which indicates just how ordinary a day it is...

Paragraph Two: How could your character find the portal...Through a door? Opening a box? Through a phone or television screen?

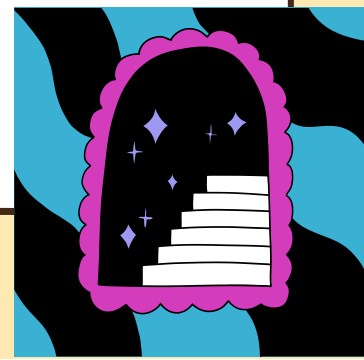
What does it feel like when they enter the portal... Dizzy? Bright? Overwhelming? Peaceful?

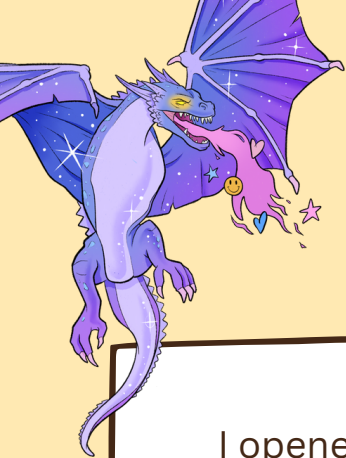
Paragraph Three: What do they notice first about their new setting? Can you use three of the five senses to describe what they experience?

Paragraph Four: Could your character encounter a new character in the new world and could you describe some of their conversation and action together?

Paragraph Five: Could you develop this action into an exciting plot point, including some dramatic action and perhaps taking us deeper into the new world of the character?

Paragraph Six: Up to you! You could bring your story to a close by inviting a resolution where your character returns home through the portal or you could finish your story at an appropriate point in the action so far.





Through the Portal

I opened my bleary eyes to another boring school morning. My face felt as crusty as overbaked bread, the sure sign I had overslept. Below the floorboards, I could hear my mum banging pots and pans while a sweet, sugary scent wafted through the door. This meant only one thing- pancakes!

I sprung out of bed and swung open my bedroom door. To my dismay, instead of the usual first step and picture frame, I was enveloped in a smoke of violet and blue. My vision went cloudy and my head started to spin like a frenetic pendulum.

When I opened my eyes again, the entire sky was filled with golden dust. I was lying on my back. A burning sensation prickled my skin. Leaping up, I found myself alone in a stretch of wild desert. But it wasn't barren like the picture books. There were patches of green scattered over the horizon and clusters of rocks which looked like habitable caves.

Before I had time to think, an enormous silver dragon flew towards me, pausing to hover over my head. "Get on my back!" she ordered.

Nervously, I clambered up. We flew over the wild desert. From the height of her wings, I could see everything: calloused cacti with vivid scarlet blossoms, elegant trees strewn with bell shaped flowers and even the spires of the only town for many miles, glistening in the golden heat.

I was desperate to explore more, but as we descended upon the buildings, a cloud of dust swirled around my face. The next sound I heard was my mum's familiar voice.

"Pancakes ready!" she cried.