Creative writing

**Task: We are workshopping 3 creative pieces. I’d like to keep going over these (hence it’s better to type them) and to improve your writing styles etc. Use dialogue and other techniques.**

1. See Model Plan, page 85 in the attachment (based on the two story excerpts Christmas Carol and My Brilliant Career).
2. See poem below – Drifters – write a story about moving – try to capture the emotions.
3. Based on the sample on the selective school sample test - : “”You are an intrepid traveler who suddenly lost contact with the outside world for over a week on your latest adventure. You have decided to write a memoir, filled with the emotion and drama of your experiences.”

**Points we have been observing: from our readings/ comprehension etc.**

* Characterisation: rounded and relatable characters by thinking about both positive and negative traits – both obvious and nuanced features.
* Characters – ensure conflict; tension with family members or friends
* Dialogue – with mannerisms and body language – to get deeper into characters – show not tell – **note punctuation**
* Writing style – ensure some fresh descriptions, using alliteration, similes, metaphors, repetition etc.
* Include a passage on negatives where appropriate (See Station Eleven excerpt)
* Simple, streamlined stories with good ideas and dialogue
* Making sure we don’t over tell and leave the readers with space to think
* Starting right in the middle of stories – with a comment, a quote, some dialogue
* Writing conversations to get into the mindset of characters

**Excerpts we have been reading (for creative/comprehension): what have we learnt?**

* Station Eleven – negative descriptions of loss – a post – pandemic – no technology world
* This Boy’s Life – tension between characters
* The drover’s wife – story-telling plan/structure
* Squeaker’s mate – use of dialogue
* Christmas Carol- use of dialogue
* My Brilliant Career; fresh writing style – confessional and heartfelt
* The face in the mirror; imagery and symbolism

## Using Poems: write a story

**Task:**  Using these three tips, please write a conversation based on tension. It might pick up on the family in the poem “Drifters” – see below. Capture the mood of the family and tension.

## Drifters     By Bruce Dawe

## One day soon he'll tell her it's time to start packing and the kids will yell 'Truly?' and get wildly excited for no reason and the brown kelpie pup will start dashing about, tripping everyone up and she'll go out to the vegetable patch and pick all the green tomatoes from the vines and notice how the oldest girl is close to tears because she was happy here, and how the youngest girl is beaming because she wasn't. And the first thing she'll put on the trailer will be the bottling-set she never unpacked from Grovedale, and when the loaded ute bumps down the drive past the blackberry canes with their last shrivelled fruit, she won't even ask why they're leaving this time, or where they're headed for she'll only remember how, when they came here she held out her hands, bright with berries, the first of the season, and said: 'Make a wish, Tom, make a wish.'

Comprehension poem - BURNING SAPPHO

**Sappho** was a Greek lyric poet, born on the island of Lesbos. The Alexandrians included her in the list of nine lyric poets.

Orion is the most prominent constellation that is visible throughout the world. The name comes from Orion, a hunter in Ancient Greek mythology that placed amongst the stars by Zeus. ... This constellation was held to symbolize many gods and mythical figures across ancient civilizations all around the world.26 Mar 2021

ABACBCDD

The clothes are washed, the house is clean.

I find my pen and start to write.

Something like hatred forks between

my child and me. She kicks her good

new well-selected toys with spite

around the room, and whines for food.

Inside my smile a monster grins

And sticks her image through with pins.

The child is fed, and sleeps. The dishes  
are washed, the clothes are ironed and aired.  
I take my pen. A kind friend wishes  
to gossip while she darns her socks.  
Scandal and pregnancies are shared.  
The child wakes, and the Rector knocks.  
Invisible inside their placid  
hostess, a fiend pours prussic acid.

Night now. Orion first begins

to show. Day’s trivial angers cease.

All is required, until one wins,

at last, this hour. I start to write.

My husband calls me, rich in peace,

to bed. Now deathless verse, good night.

In my warm things a fleshless devil  
chops him to bits with hell-cold evil.

Task:  **Vocab blitz** for the next week:

Please go over some of the vocab from the lesson

Please try to learn 5 – 10 words a day. Please write sentences and keep a list. Please use some of the descriptions in your creative piece.:  Please see:  <https://www.englishworks.com.au/category/new-words-and-sentences/>