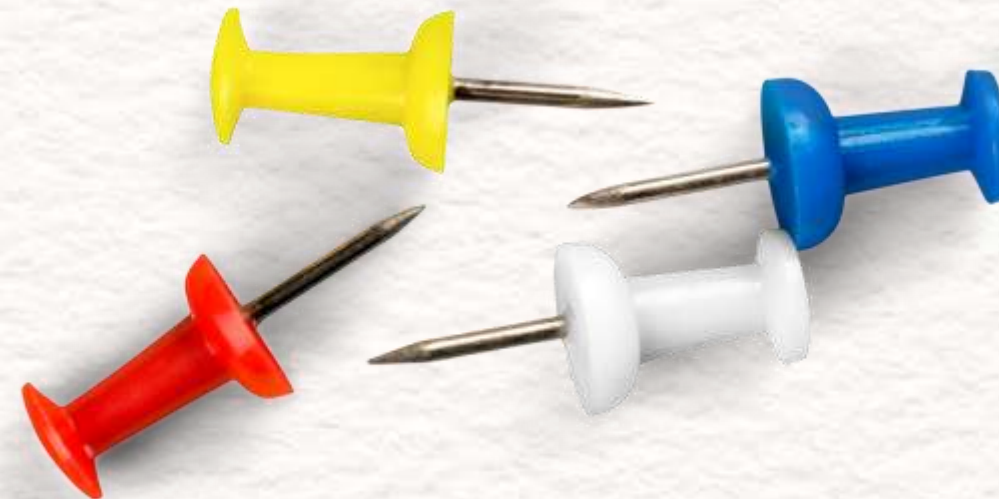


**Topic : Writing Skill Building**

**Course Code : 5193302**

**Course Credit : 2**

**Course For : IMCA (Semester-5)**





# **Creative Writing Prompts**

to practice core skills

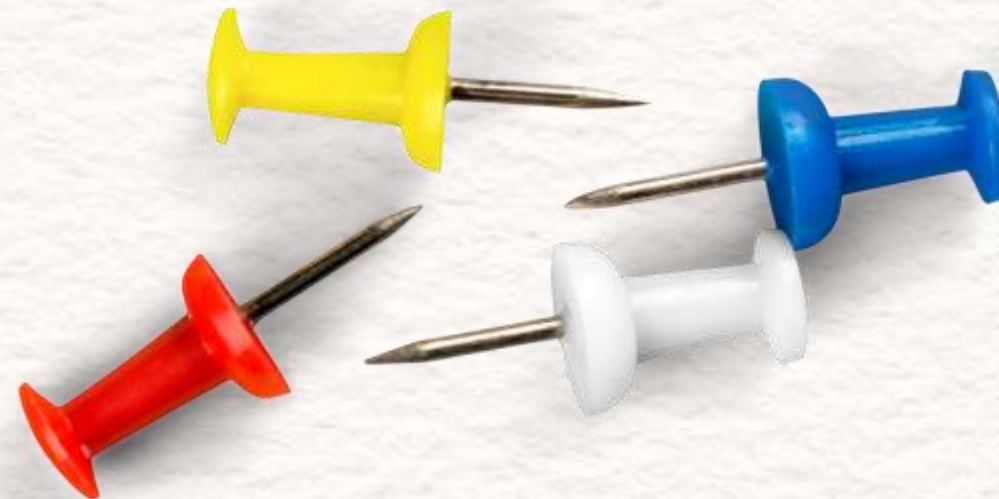
**Prepared by:**  
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**(Assistant Professor – Career Development Cell )**



# Revision of Core Skills

**Parul<sup>®</sup> University**  
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**Career  
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Cell**





# Revision

The following writing prompts will work to improve your creative writing skills in four key areas:

- Indirect Characterisation
- Voice and Perspective
- Setting, Mood and Imagery
- Structure and Sequencing

Let's revise these narrative elements before we begin.





# Indirect Characterisation

Indirect characterisation is a method used by writers to reveal a character's personality, traits, and motivations without directly or explicitly 'telling' the reader. It is typically achieved through:

- **Appearance:** The physical description of the character, including their looks, clothing, and overall presentation.
- **Actions:** What the character does and how they behave in different situations.
- **Speech:** What the character says, how they speak, and their tone and choice of words.
- **Thoughts:** The internal thoughts and feelings of the character, which provide insight into their motivations and personality.
- **Effect on others:** How other characters react to and interact with the character in question.
- **Other e.g objects/setting:** Elements can be used symbolically to present ideas about character.



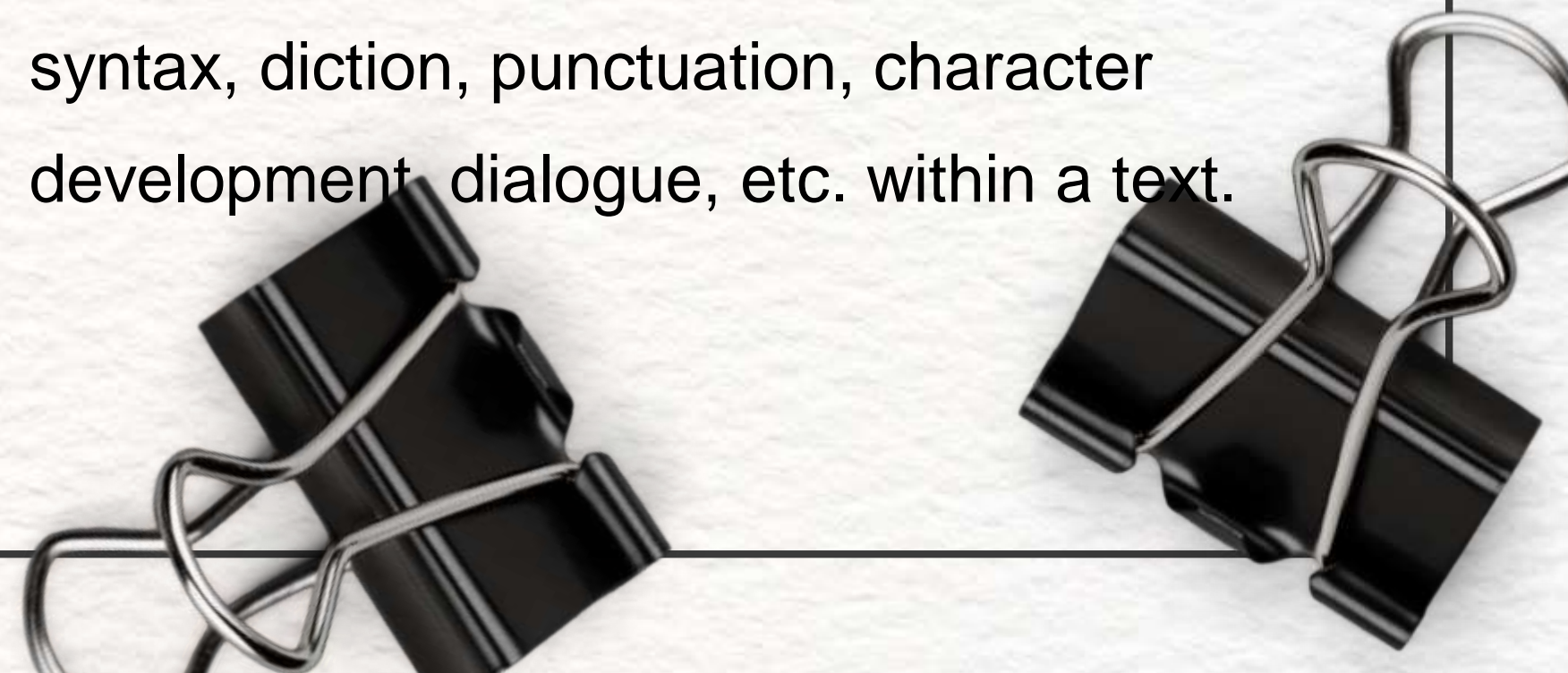
# Voice and Perspective

## Perspective...

- is the lens through which the readers observe the characters, events, and happenings.
- is the angle or viewpoint from which a story is narrated.
- is closely linked to the narrator of the story (some texts can have multiple perspectives).
- influences how characters and events are presented in a narrative, ultimately, shaping the way that readers respond to

## Voice...

- refers to the distinct sound, personality, style, or point of view of a piece of writing or its narrator, author or various characters.
- can be conveyed through a combination of syntax, diction, punctuation, character development, dialogue, etc. within a text.





# Setting, Mood and Imagery

## Setting:

The time and place where the narrative occurs. It includes the physical location, historical period, season, time of day, and even the cultural context. The setting creates a backdrop against which the characters interact and the plot unfolds. It can influence the story's atmosphere, events, and the behaviour of

## Mood:

The emotional atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader. It's the feeling or vibe that permeates the story, which can range from joyful, eerie, and suspenseful to melancholic, peaceful, or tense. Writers convey mood through techniques, such as word choice, setting, imagery and tone.

## Imagery:

The use of descriptive language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind. These detailed and evocative descriptions make scenes more vivid and engaging and help to convey emotions, settings and actions more powerfully.







# Structure and Sequencing

## Structure:


The overall framework and organisation of a narrative, determining how the story is constructed and presented to the reader. A well-structured narrative ensures that the story flows logically and engages the reader.

The most common narrative structure follows the sequence of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

## Sequencing:

The order in which events and scenes are presented in the narrative. It can significantly impact the reader's understanding and engagement with the story.

Different sequencing techniques include chronological order, non-linear order, flashbacks, flash-forwards, parallel plotlines, shifts in perspective and pacing.





# Writing Prompts



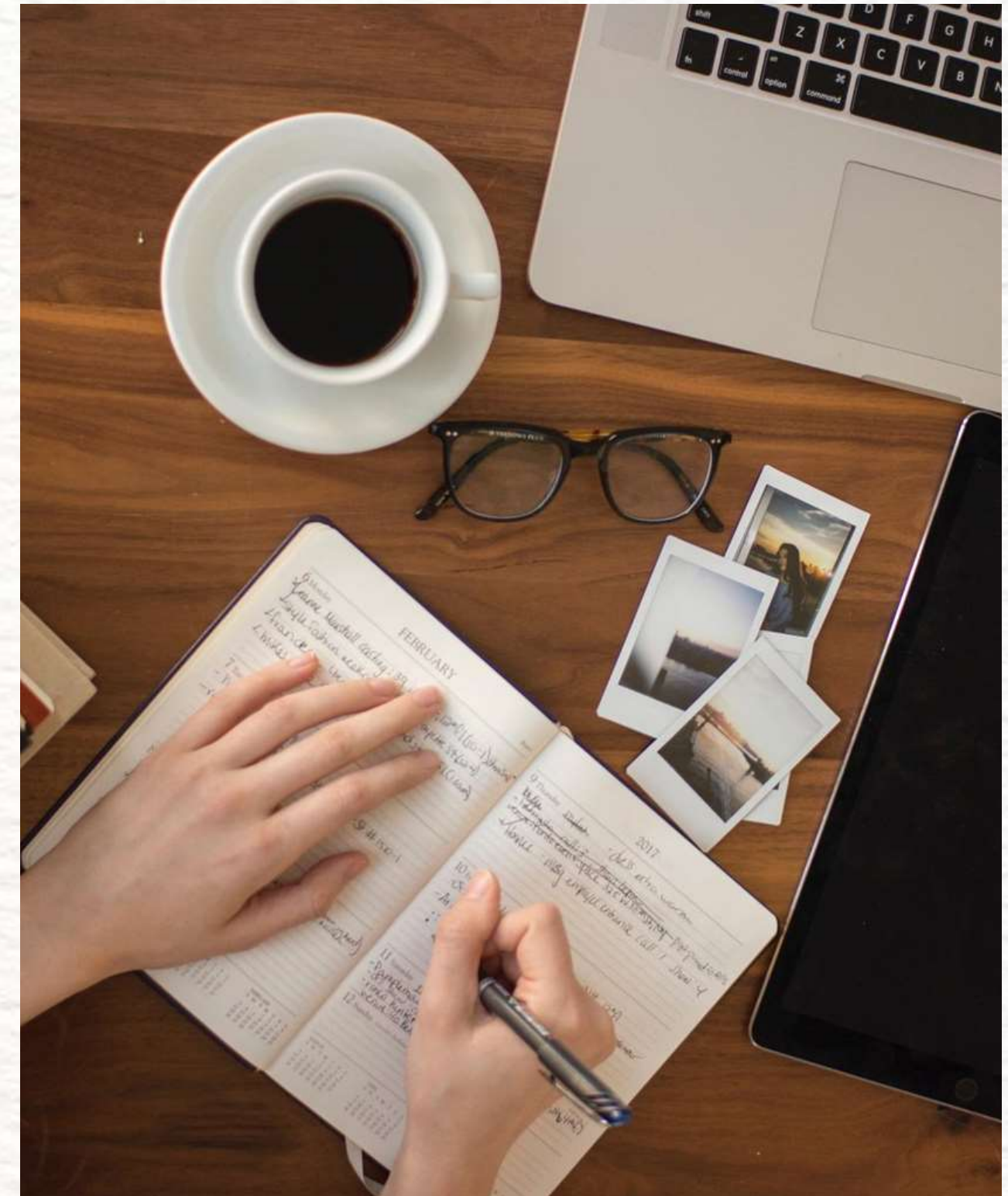


# Practice

Let's put this knowledge into practice and experiment with different ways to utilise techniques to enhance each of the four elements.

Give yourself 20 minutes to practice timed writing to each prompt. Try to keep your pen moving and have fun experimenting with language and structure.

At the end, swap with another student and give one another constructive feedback on your writing.

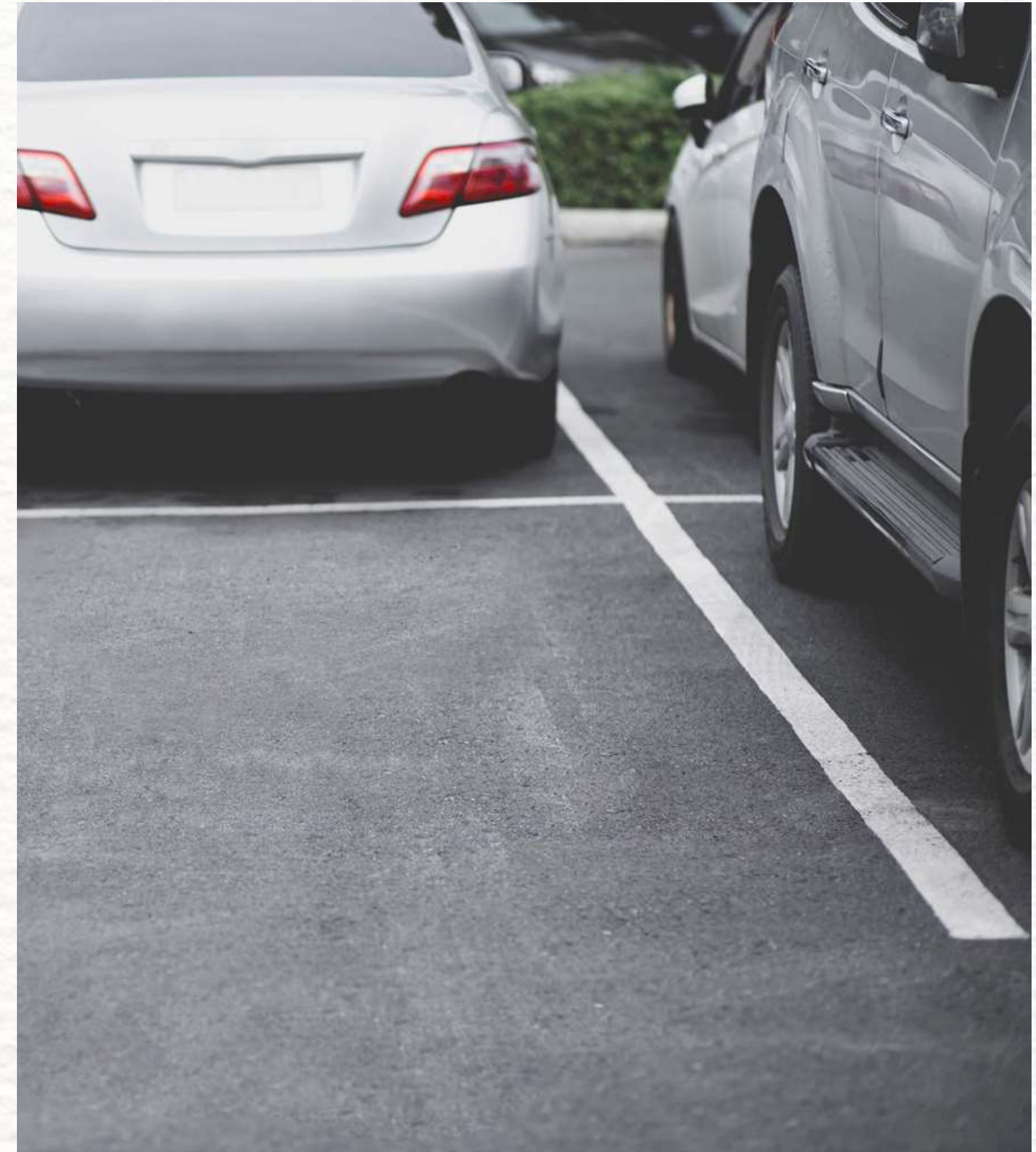




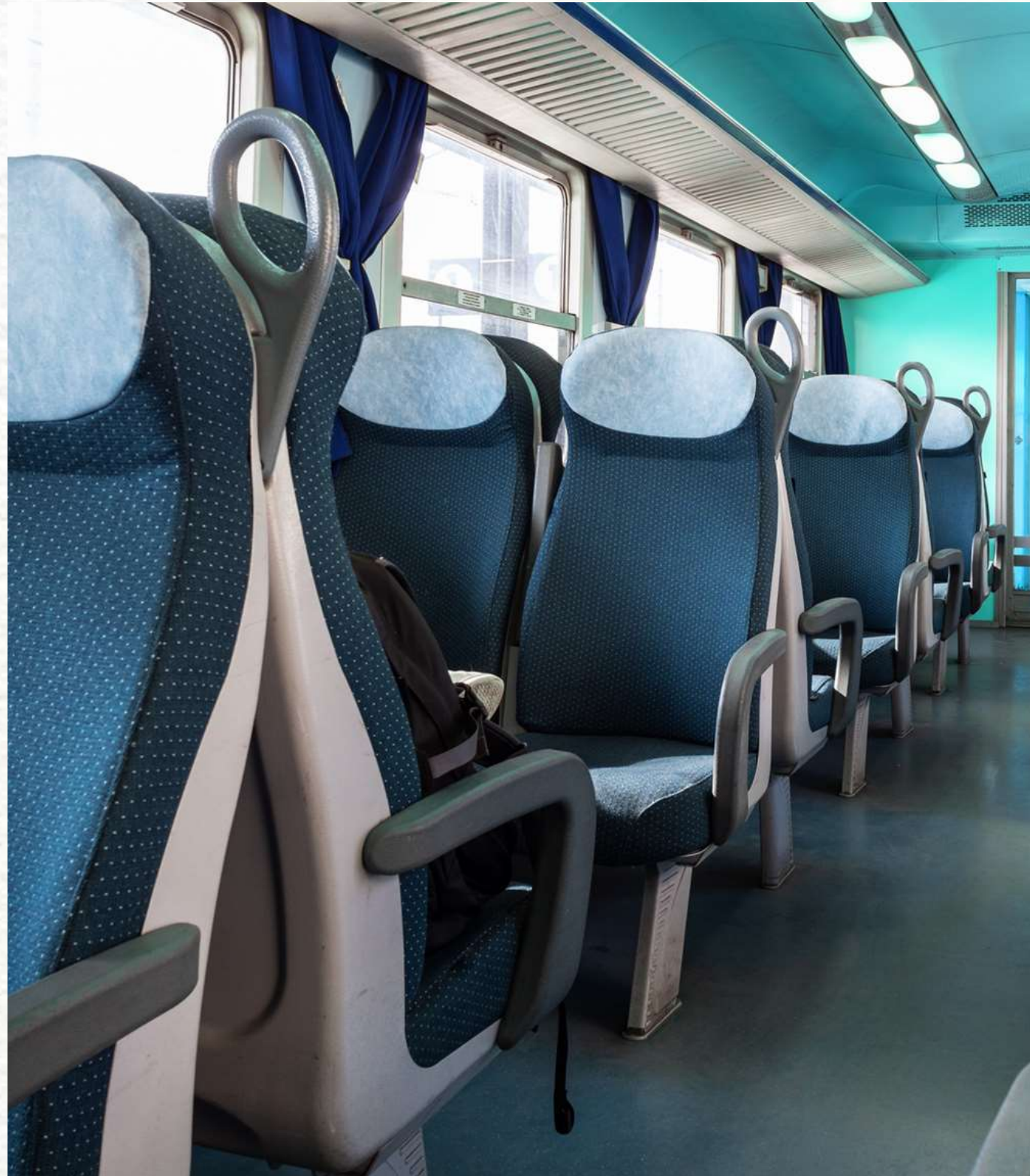
# Indirect Characterisation

Write a conversation between two characters who have a disagreement over a parking space. Focus on using indirect characterisation through dialogue and actions to convey each of their personalities, thoughts and feelings.

- Character 1 is a busy and exhausted mother with a screaming toddler in tow.
- Character 2 is a health obsessed fitness fanatic and social media influencer.







# Voice and Perspective

Two characters see each other on the train every day on the way to work but never speak to one another.

Write two passages from each character's point of view or perspective that convey two clear and distinct voices.

Try to link them by including their thoughts or opinions on the other character.

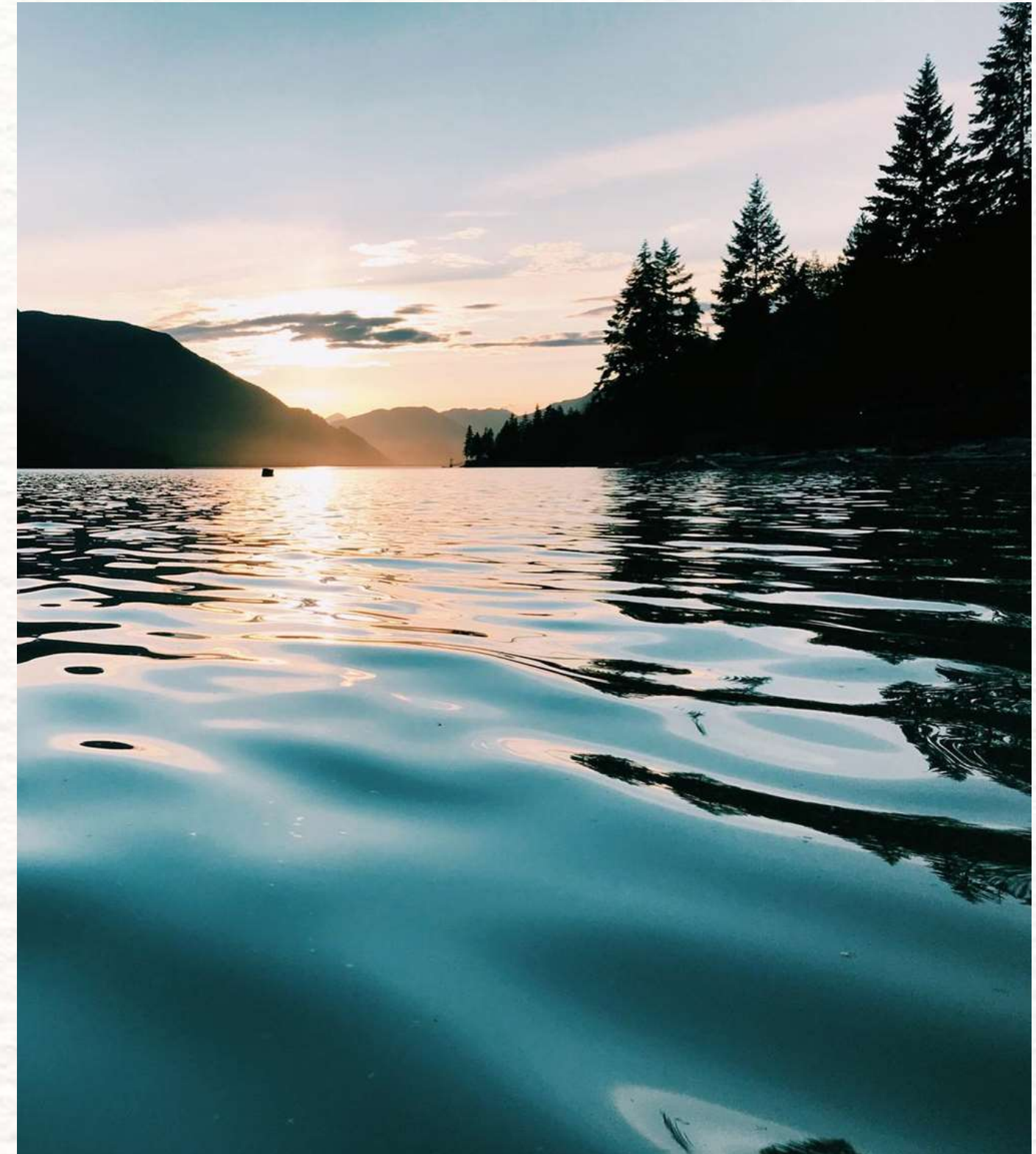


# Setting, Mood and Imagery

Write a short passage describing the setting of a lake as seen by a young man who has just committed a murder.

Your challenge is to not explicitly mention the murder but convey it indirectly.

Create a clear sense of mood or atmosphere through word choice, descriptions of setting and imagery.







# Structure and Sequencing

Write a short story that is structured as a series of interconnected vignettes about a group of people living in an apartment complex.

Each vignette should reveal different aspects of the characters or setting.

You may choose a central conflict or theme to guide your writing but you do not have to.



# Indirect Characterisation

Write a short passage about three characters who are stuck in an elevator together. Use indirect characterisation to 'show' the reader their personalities or character traits without explicitly 'telling' them.

Some suggestions are:

- Character 1 - messy and disorganised
- Character 2 - extremely nervous
- Character 3 - egotistical







# Voice and Perspective

Write two short letters focusing on a dispute between neighbours - one from each neighbour's perspective.

In each letter, aim to convey two different and distinct voices that represent contrasting viewpoints and/or personal contexts.

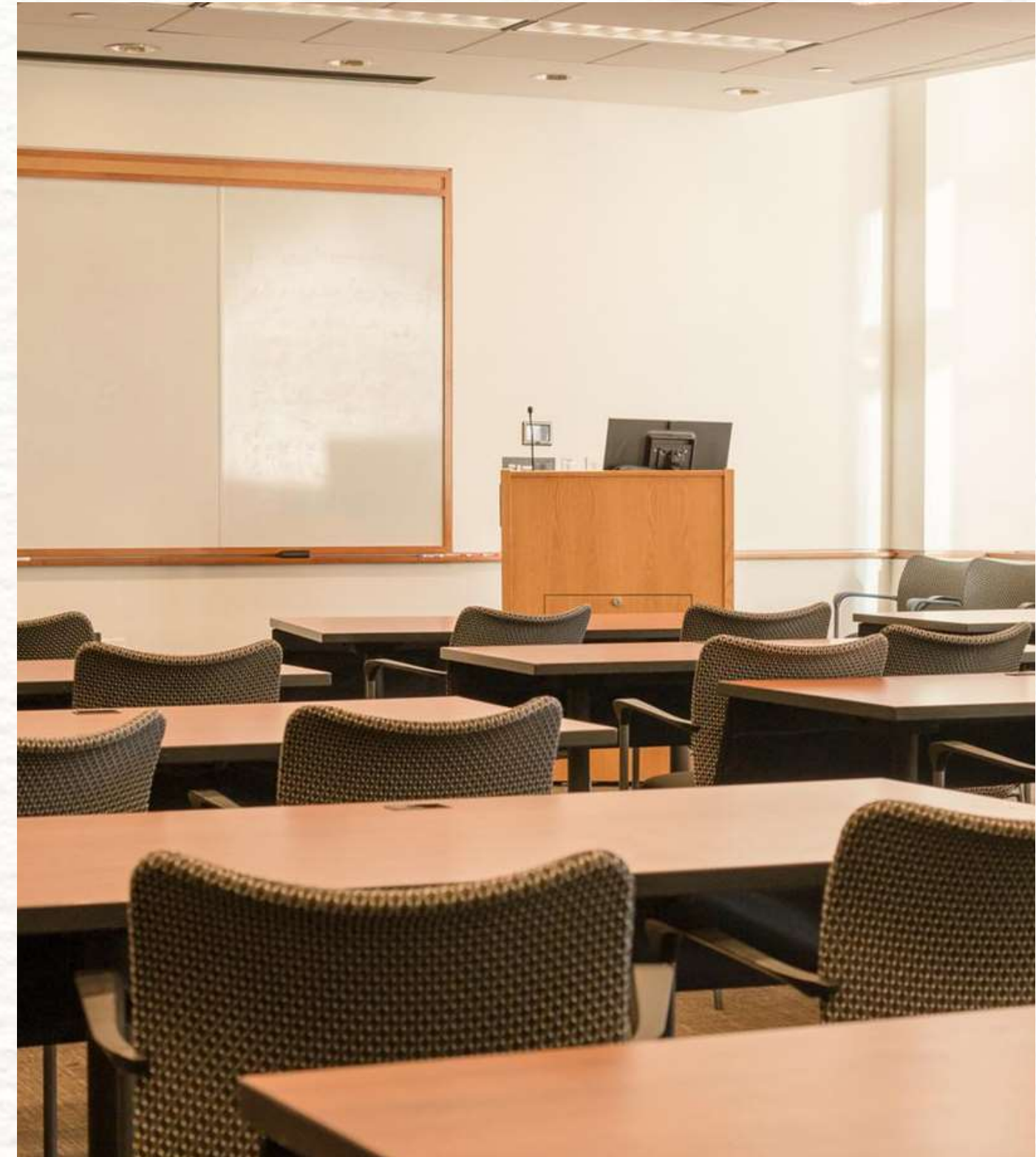


# Setting, Mood and Imagery

Write a short passage describing a classroom setting aiming to convey a clear mood or atmosphere through word choice and sensory imagery. Then, repeat the exercise describing the same classroom but conveying a different mood.

Some suggestions include:

- Excitement, energy, happiness
- Drab, dull, boring
- Anger, frustration







# Structure and Sequencing

Write a short story that begins with the final event (a flash forward) before using a flashback to trace the events that lead up to it.

Choose from the following prompts or create your own:

- A man who's in love with his work colleague
- A school teacher who decides to quit
- A lonely woman purchases a puppy



# Indirect Characterisation

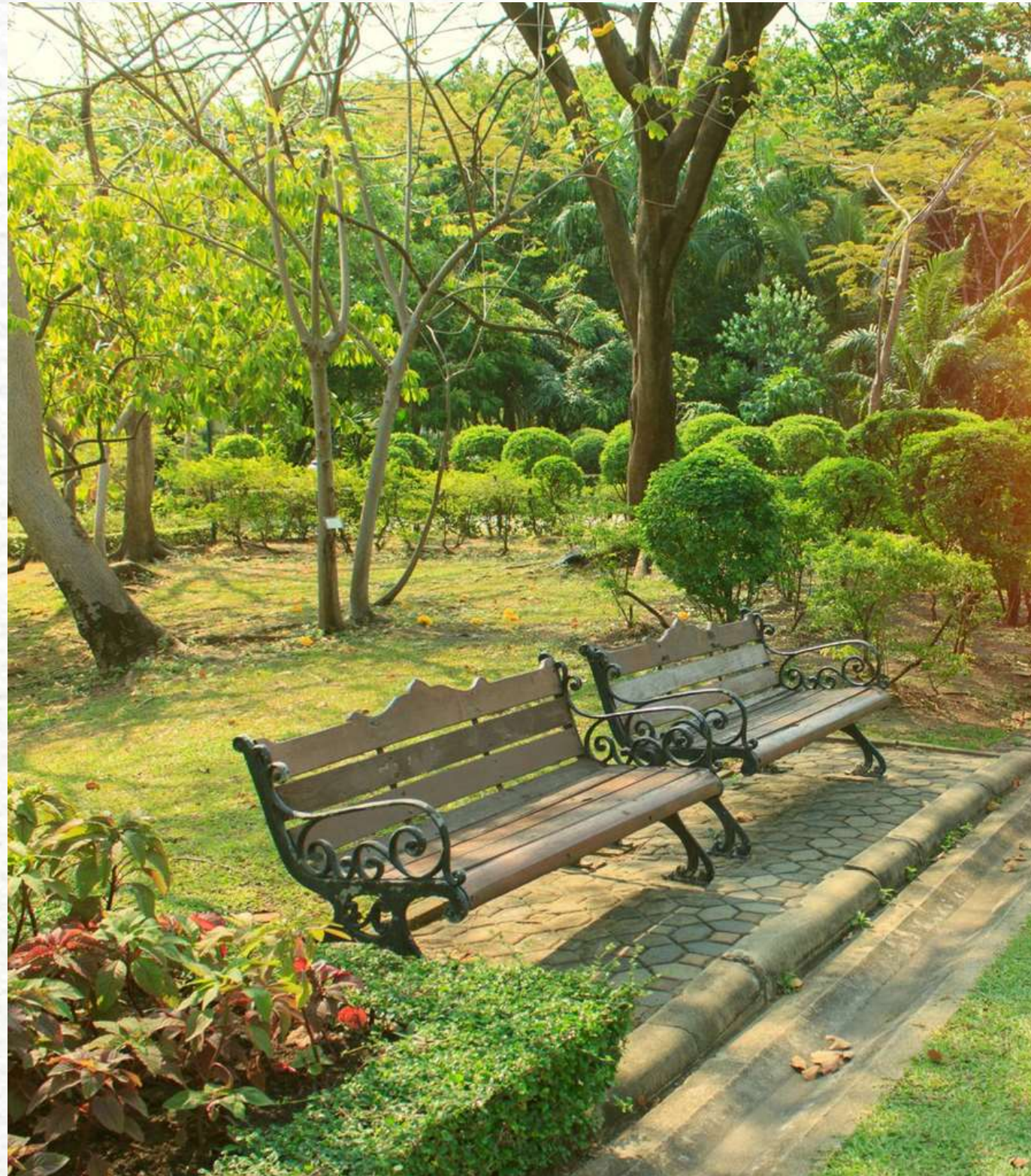
Picture a scene where three characters are sitting in the waiting room at a veterinary clinic.

At their feet, sit their pets awaiting their appointments.

Convey the personality of each of the three owners purely through descriptions of their pets and their shoes.







# Voice and Perspective

Write two short passages about two characters walking through a park, focusing on conveying a clear and unique sense of voice for each.

Choose from the following:

- a 75-year-old grandfather
- a frustrated teenager
- a 7-year-old boy who is lost



# Setting, Mood and Imagery

Write a short passage describing the setting of a coffee shop in the morning as seen by someone who is happy and in love. Your challenge is to not mention love or the loved one. Focus on conveying mood through word choice, descriptions of setting and sensory imagery.

Now repeat the exercise from the perspective of someone who has just lost a loved one, conveying a different mood.







# Structure and Sequencing

Write a short story or passage that is told in a non-linear fashion, jumping back and forth in time and space to create a fragmented story.

Choose from the following prompts:

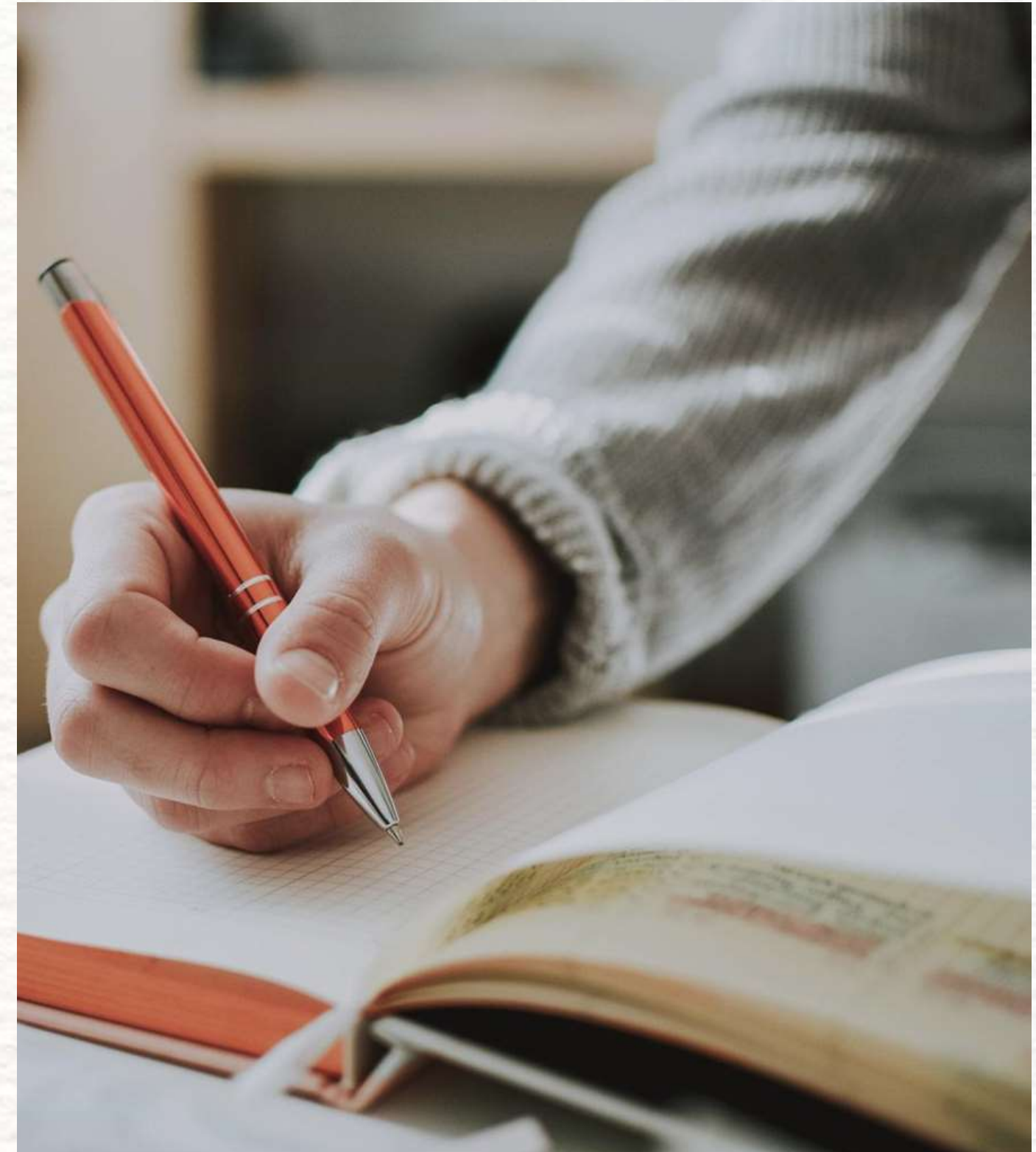
- a dysfunctional family
- a detective trying to solve a crime
- a student adjusting to their first year at university



# Indirect Characterisation

Write a short passage about a student who seems polite, engaged and academic but who is hiding a dark secret.

Use indirect characterisation (descriptions of speech, appearance, objects, actions or behaviours, interactions with other characters etc.), to give subtle hints to the reader without telling them explicitly.







# Voice and Perspective

Write a short story or passage that is told from the perspective of an inanimate object, who witnesses the events of the plot.

Choose from the following or come up with your own item:

- a house
- a tree
- a book
- a technological item

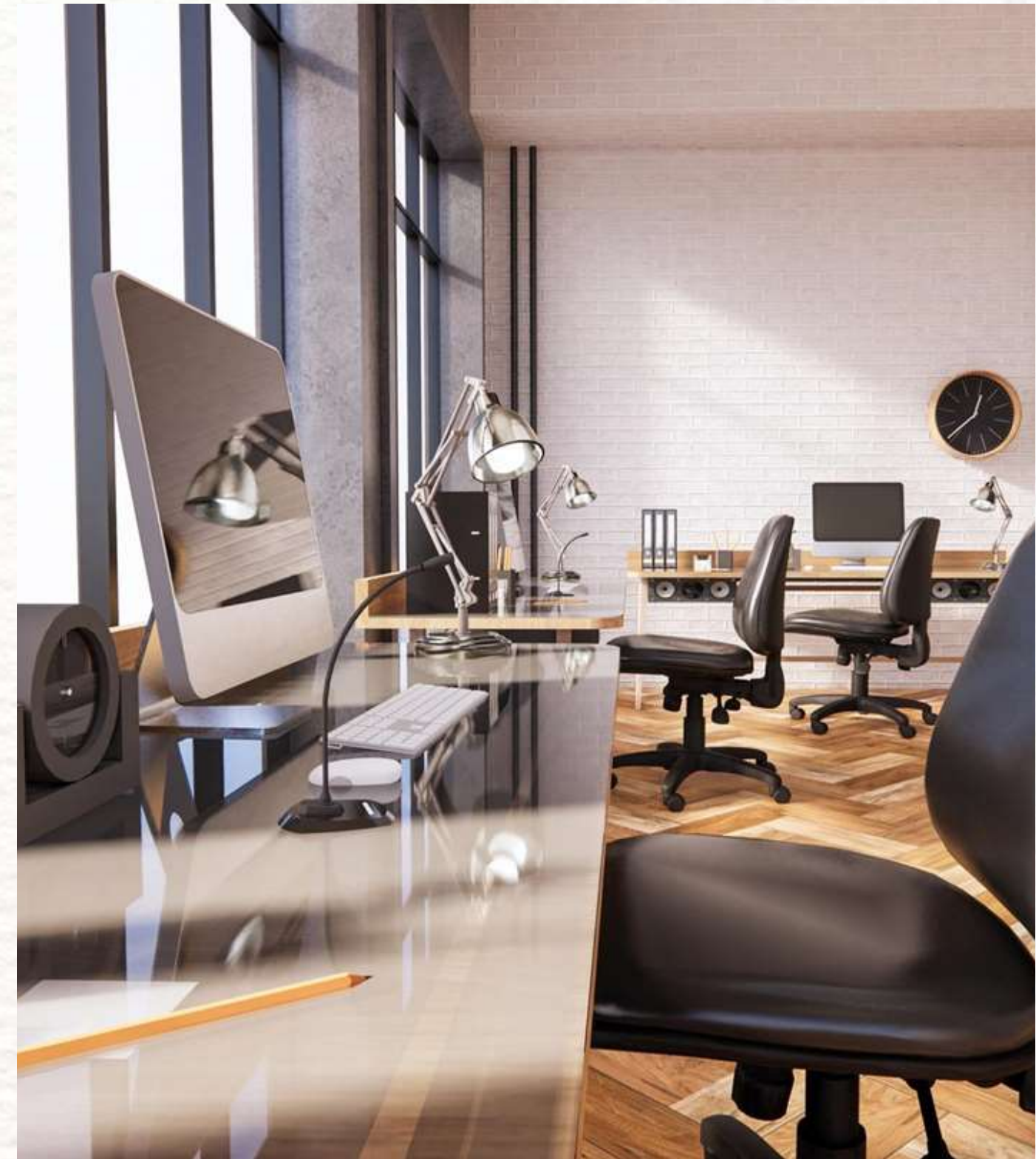


# Setting, Mood and Imagery

Use detailed descriptions of three different character's desks and/or work spaces in a huge open plan office to reflect their personalities.

Choose from the following:

- an environmental activist
- a part-time social media influencer
- a busy mother of five
- a nepo baby
- a lonely single man
- a control freak







# Structure and Sequencing

Write a short story composed entirely of letters, diary entries or text messages between two characters, each revealing a different perspective on the events of the story.

Choose from the following prompts:

- A teenager and a parent
- Two men who are brothers
- A tenant and a landlord



# Indirect Characterisation

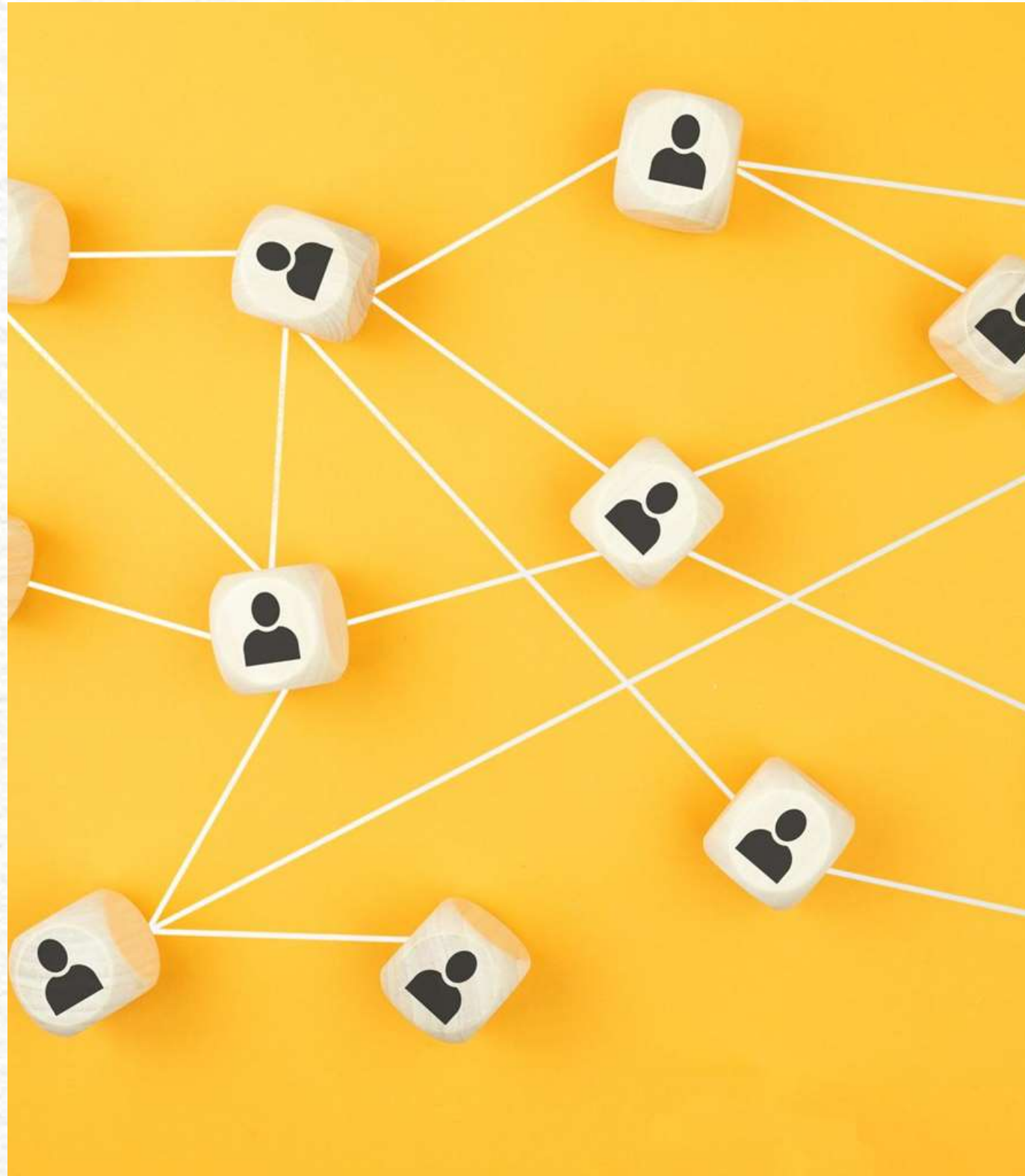
Use symbolism of objects and figurative language (smile, metaphor etc.) to subtly reveal ideas about a character without explicitly telling the reader.

Choose from the following characters:

- A war veteran who feels isolated from society
- A shy, academic child
- A homeless man who was once wealthy







# Sequencing and Structure

Write a unique story that is structured like a series of social media posts. You might include status updates, direct messages, photos with captions etc. to gradually reveal the full story over time.

Remember the rule 'show, don't tell' and include symbolism to reveal the characters traits and personalities.



# Learning Objectives

This presentation includes targeted writing prompts designed to focus on each core aspect of narrative writing, ensuring students develop a comprehensive and nuanced approach to storytelling.

By the end of these activities, students should be able to:

- Develop compelling **characters** by utilising detailed descriptions and indirect characterisation techniques.
- Create immersive **settings** that enhance the story and engage readers through vivid imagery and sensory details.
- Establish and maintain a consistent **mood** throughout their narrative using tone, language, and stylistic choices.
- Experiment with unconventional narrative **structures** with appropriate pacing and transitions.
- Cultivate distinct narrative **voices** that reflect the unique style and personality of the characters or narrator.
- Demonstrate how employing various **perspectives** can shape or influence a narrative.



# Learning Outcomes

Creative writing prompts are imaginative cues or scenarios designed to spark inspiration and help writers overcome the blank page. They encourage originality, expression, and exploration of ideas in a fun and engaging way. Whether you're writing stories, poems, or personal reflections, prompts open the door to new perspectives and creative growth.

- Demonstrate enhanced imaginative and creative thinking
- Develop narrative techniques and storytelling skills
- Improve writing fluency and expression
- Strengthen descriptive and figurative language usage
- Respond to prompts with personal voice and style
- Practice critical and reflective thinking
- Enhance peer feedback and revision skills
- Build writing discipline and consistency





# The End

happy writing!