

11+ Creative Writing Course - Workshop 4 Feedback

THE
EXAM
COACH

Please find below feedback on Victoria's homework from the 11+ Creative Writing Course - Workshop 4.

Please submit any questions to
teamkeen@theexamcoach.tv

Student Assignment: Write a diary entry about a day on a pirate ship.

Write a diary entry describing a day aboard a pirate ship.

Friday 2nd October 2021 ✓

Dear diary, ✓

SLASH! SPLISH! WOOSH! The boat was flying through the ocean. ✓

~~I have only been on this boat for~~ I have only been on this boat for two days and I ~~was~~ ^{was} already beginning to feel sick and tired. ✓

Like yesterday, the captain had barked at everyone to get out of our beds and onto Blackbeard's ship's deck. (I cannot believe I was looking forward to this.) Later on, he made us go and scrub the decks and control the sails - though most of us had no idea how to. ✓

Notes for student

- This is outstanding writing Victoria! You have integrated the correct format for a diary, a number of literary devices, interesting vocabulary and a variety of sentence lengths. All this without it seeming forced! I am very impressed.
- This piece would score very highly in an 11 Plus exam.

I felt my fingers begin to blister as I was holding onto the rope. Its touch was ~~scra~~ like scraping your hand on a brick wall. It was terrible. I could smell the putrid smell of festering fish and fresh alcohol. As I controlled the sails, I could taste salty seawater as it sprayed into my mouth. Seeing the sails dance reluctantly in the wind made me feel bad for them, though I knew they were not alive. Suddenly, it began to rain and the wind got stronger.

Notes for student

- The sensory descriptions of your blistered fingers and the salty sea in your mouth are very evocative.
- I am also pleased at how you have included a wide range of literary devices: metaphor, personification, alliteration. Excellent!
- Just be careful of commas in introductory phrases. We always need one when we start a sentence with an adverb such as 'Suddenly'.

We rushed into our cabins by the captain, escaping the rain. Outside, frigid blast of water fell sharply to the ground like a spider throwing its silk to make a web. Inside, we had a small dinner: I devoured a glass of rum and a fish, and ^{they we} tucked ourselves into our beds. I am quickly writing this because soon all the lights will turn off. I will sleep lightly tonight; I am so worried the boat will capsize. I wish to get out of this place as quickly as possible. It is a nightmare!

Notes for student

- Very creative images here Victoria. My favourite is the comparison between water and a spider's silk being thrown. Highly original work!

- The amount of difficult punctuation you have included here is also pleasing! Both the colon and the semicolon have been used appropriately and correctly. Well done Victoria!

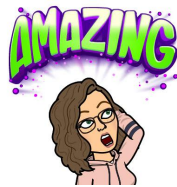
Your work was marked by Victoria.

Qualifications: 1st class English degree.

University: University of Cambridge.

Lives in: Essex.

A bit about me: I studied contemporary drama and medieval literature while at university. Outside of studying, I acted and participated in educational outreach projects. In my free time I cook, read and enjoy watersports. I love podcasts and I hope to launch my own one day.



This work was reviewed and approved by James Davey, The Exam Coach.