

The View from my Window

*Choose your window
Tell your story
Share on social media*

Aim: To inspire the students to produce a piece of writing in response to the view from the classroom window. This is to be shared on social media on 21st June for the first ever National Writing Day. This can also be appropriated to be set as homework for students to respond to the view from a window in their home.

Time: 30-40 minutes

Key Stage: All ages

Resources: Pens or pencils, paper and the #TellYourStory Polaroid stickers enclosed in this pack. Part of this activity requires access to Instagram or Twitter so that students can share their work online – this could be done through a school account if this is preferable. Alternatively, you could set this as homework for students, asking them to use the Polaroid stickers at home.

Warm up: Read both of the enclosed First Story poems and get students thinking about times when they have daydreamed while staring out of a window i.e. in the classroom, at home, in the car.

Exercise: You can use some or all of these short writing techniques to get students started with their writing. Feel free to amend as you see fit.

- 1. Gaze:** Start by asking students to look out of the window nearest to them. If you don't have a window in the classroom, ask students to imagine the view from a window in their home.
- 2. Zooming in:** Ask students to think about their chosen view. Ask them what they can see in the distance, then focus in on the middle distance, then the foreground. Get them to think about the scale of objects they might spot in the view – from the large to the very small.
- 3. Zooming out:** Ask students to look for the smallest detail they can find in the view, describe it in detail, then pull out again to take in the full landscape of the view. This technique can be combined with 'Zooming in' to help craft a controlled structure for descriptive writing tasks.
- 4. Writing prompts:** Ask the students to continue these sentences and respond to the prompts:
 - At the centre of the view...
 - At the edge of the view...
 - In the light...
 - In the shade...
 - What is moving in the view?
 - What is static in the view?
 - What is the brightest colour in the view?
 - What is the duller part of the view?
 - If the view had a mood, what would it be?
- 5. Write:** Finally, ask your students to write something in response to the view they have chosen; either using the classroom window or a window at home, if set as homework.
- 6. Read:** Ask students to read out what they have written – this could be the whole piece or even just a favourite line.

7. Sharing on social media: Encourage students to share an image of their view and their writing, using the #TellYourStory Polaroid enclosed. This can be done after school for homework if phones are strictly forbidden during school hours.

The hashtag to be used is #TellYourStory. Instagram is the ideal platform for this exercise, but Twitter is also fine. You can post multiple Tweets or simply choose the favourite line from your story. See an example of the #TellYourStory Polaroid being used in the photo below.

If children are under the age of 13, a parent, guardian or teacher should post on their behalf.

Don't forget!

Post your students' best examples on your school's social media channels using #TellYourStory on National Writing Day (21st June).

