

Using language

The language that you select to show your story idea should be sophisticated and appropriate. After you have focused on and analysed your audience, think about the language register or the level of language. This means that throughout the writing process you need to critically consider word choice, sentence structure, the complexity of images and persuasive devices, and the way ideas are structured or organised in your story.

Characterisation

At the beginning of your story, it is important to establish your protagonist in a clear and compelling way, and to use other characters to develop aspects of the protagonist's journey. Characters may be developed by physical description, dialogue, direct comment by the narrator, and the speech and action of other characters.

Naming the characters is an important technique. For example, in *Honey* (see page 60) the composer chooses to give her protagonist a Christian name, Grace. This is ironic because the story is a dark tale about a group of children who chose to ignore the Christian principle of being kind and loving towards each other, choosing instead to cruelly persecute a school mate.

Allusion is another technique that a composer can use when naming a character. An allusion can link a character to characters and ideas in other texts. This is known as inter-textuality. A character or a composer from another text can appear in your story.

There are several examples of allusion in *Honey*. First, the victim, a newcomer to the school, is associated with the exclusive culture of the wealthy class in Mark Twain's novels. The sentence 'Squeal piggy squeal' links the story with William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and its themes of victimisation and vindictive behaviour. Dante's seventh circle of hell alludes to a nightmare world that the protagonist fears.

It is important that the composer does not tell the reader about characters, events and setting, but shows them dynamically interacting through images that can stimulate and move through the reader's mind in a meaningful way.

Show don't tell

In the story the composer presents a negative situation which is the result of violently rejecting and destroying another person. The protagonist and her friends are shown living in fear, and their only remaining choice is how severely they can expect to be punished. Their ruthless and vile targeting and destruction of a classmate who made them jealous