

A dramatic scene of a lighthouse beam of light shining across a dark, stormy sea at night. The beam is a bright yellow line that cuts through the dark water and sky. The lighthouse structure is visible in the center, with the beam emanating from its top. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam from waves visible in the foreground. The sky is dark with some faint stars or distant lights.

The Lighthouse

w/b 18.5.20

Task 1



Watch the clip and then replay and stop at 0m40s. To open you will need to try to set the scene and introduce the main character.

Make a list of bullet points of information you can infer about the lighthouse keeper.

Make a separate list about the setting e.g. full moon, cloudy, waves were gathering.

Then, look at the opening paragraph on the next slide. Identify where there is information about the man and information about the setting. If you are able to, you could print this off and highlight the key information.

I recall an old fisherman's rhyme told to me by my father when I was just a lad, 'If clouds are gathering thick and fast, keep sharp look-out for sail and mast. If the wind is blowing in the north, no fisherman should dare set forth.' He'd been a fisherman since he was old enough to cast a net and had always believed it to be true, refusing to launch his boat if a north wind was blowing, much to my mother's annoyance. However, I realise now, some forty years later, that perhaps there was some truth in his theory. Because it was an icy north wind that blew on that fateful night in December: a night I won't forget in a hurry. Heavy, ragged clouds obscured the moon from time to time in a tumultuous grip and the sea was a restless beast, chewing at the rocks below the lighthouse. I watched the horizon for longer than usual, scouring the inky darkness for ships with my father's rhyme playing over and over in my mind and then eventually I decided to retire to my books.

Now, you need to create your own opening paragraph weaving together information about the lighthouse keeper (and his past) and the setting.

By giving an insight into the life of the lighthouse keeper, we are providing information to his background. Look back at some of the notes you made and begin to put them together to form sentences e.g.

I was always fond of the sea and would spend hours, as a child, out on the beach collecting shells and staring at the waves. (Lighthouse keeper)

The rocks below the lighthouse were perilous and constantly gnawed by the waves. (setting)

These could then be combined e.g.

I was always fond of the sea and would spend hours, as a child, out on the beach collecting shells and staring at the waves. Though I learned as an adult that the peace and tranquillity of the sea could change at any moment. The rocks beneath the lighthouse were perilous and constantly gnawed at by the waves, and the walks I'd had as a child were rare because of the high tides and dangerous currents.

Try to formulate your own sentences about the lighthouse keeper and the setting. These should be written as a paragraph with a focus on a balance of 'setting' and 'character' sentences.

You could look at images of stormy seas to help you. Can you think of any similes, metaphors or personification you could use?



Task 2



Play the clip until the point where the candle goes out and think about the following questions.

What does the lighthouse keeper feel about the people outside?

What makes them think this?

Why is this in the clip?

How does it make us feel about the man and the cheering people?

What time of year could it be (perhaps New Year or Christmas).

Next, look at this image of a village at night.

Watch the clip again and focus upon the setting (You can take notes if you wish).

Now, complete a 4,3,2,1 of ideas.

Write 4 expanded noun phrases, 3 preposition phrases, 2 short snappy sentences and 1 sentence including a relative clause.

See the next slide for an example.



4 Expanded noun phrases

Bare, sinuous trees awaited their springtime leaves.

Amber lights shone from friendly windows and inside noisy revellers danced and cheered.

The narrow walkways and paths were bathed in the pale light of a milky moon.

Houses of all sizes dotted the grassy clifftop.

3 Preposition phrases

High above the village, at the edge of the cliff, sat the Briar's Rock lighthouse.

The light danced over the rooftop; the darkness was no match for its strength.

Beyond the cliffs, the restless sea gurgled and churned.

2 Short snappy sentences (no more than 4 words)

Light swept the village.

The villagers cheered.

1 Sentence including a relative clause

The lighthouse, which didn't benefit from the same warm glow of the beam, stood stoically in the near darkness.

Now, try to edit your sentences to create a paragraph describing the setting.

See the example on the following slide.

Look at the edits which have been made.

Why do you think the author has done this?

Think about the use of repetition for effect, the use of the word 'friendly' and the fact some of the sentences have been combined.

High above the village, at the edge of the cliff, sat the Briar's Rock lighthouse. Its bright light danced over the rooftops and out to sea; the darkness was no match for its strength. In the village, the narrow walkways and paths were bathed in the pale light of a milky moon and bare, sinuous trees awaited their springtime leaves. Amber lights shone from friendly windows and inside noisy revellers danced and applauded. Houses of all sizes dotted the grassy clifftop, and beyond the cliffs and the pretty, little village, the restless sea gurgled and churned

Light swept the village. The villagers cheered. Light swept the village. More applause.

The lighthouse, which didn't benefit from the same warm glow of the beam, or the same cheeriness of the village, stood stoically watching in the near darkness.

Task 3



Look at the short section of film between 0.44 sec and 1 minute. This is where we will go back to our first-person narrative again.

This will be a simple series of steps. As you watch the clip, note down what happens in sequence e.g.

I was working at a table, I was distracted by the sound, I shut the window, the light went out, the villagers ceased cheering, the window blows open, the candle blows out.

Now, turn these notes into a sequenced paragraph in your book. You should include other details such as the candle blowing out, the villagers stopping their cheers and the sound from the top of the lighthouse. Consider your openings and avoid repetition of nouns by selecting a different synonym. E.g. Light, beam, beacon, glow, lantern.

See the example below.

I was working at a table in my living quarters in the tower. Distracted by the noise of the repeated cheering, I attempted to block out the sound by closing the only open window. Suddenly, above me, I heard an unexpected grinding and then a loud clank, followed by darkness. The beam stopped turning. The villagers ceased cheering. The window blew open and extinguished my candle: almost as though it were in harmony with the light.

Watch the clip until 1m 34s and use the next slide to help you construct your next paragraph about the lighthouse keeper reaching the top of the lighthouse.

To simplify, some of the steps could be combined or removed. You could use this vocabulary bank to help you.

stood	ignited	malfunctioned
arose	ascended	investigated
got to my feet	scaled	considered
stumble	scrambled	explored
tumble	ran	examined
tripped	clambered	grabbed
staggered	ceased	gripped
lurched	halted	seized
hesitated	frozen	snatched
lit	stopped	grasped

1. I stood and fell.

I stood, pushing myself to my feet and accidentally knocking over a pile of books while stumbling in the darkness.

2. I lit my lantern.

3. I ran up the steps.

4. I saw the machinery had stopped.

5. I investigated the cogs and wheels.

6. I got hold of my toolkit

7. I ran to the top of the lighthouse.

8. I opened the casing for the light.

Task 4



Watch the clip from 1m36s until the point where the lighthouse keeper throws open the door. Today, you will need to write a short first person account of what the lighthouse keeper does up until the point where the dome smashes.

First, think about the three main things that happen in the scene and the different ways of describing them. Look at the next slide for support.

I inspected the lantern.

I examined the glass dome.

I scrutinised the interior of the light.

I studied the internal workings of the light to assess the damage.

I heard a ship.

I made out the sound of a ship approaching.

The sound of a ship's horn grew closer.

A ship signalled its approach with a long, loud horn and alerted me to the imminent danger it faced.

The glass covering was broken.

The glass lay on the floor in a hundred pieces.

Shards of glass lay scattered around me.

The glass dome shattered immediately upon impact with the floor.

Think about what actions or thoughts happened between these points. You may or may not have seen them in the film clip e.g. After looking inside the lantern, he peers through the glass door. Can you write 2 or linking sentences to join the 3 main points on the previous slide?

Look at the model text on the next slide taking note of the first person/third person perspectives. Today, you will just need to complete your own version of the first paragraph. Look at the use of the word CRASH and the repetition. Can you use onomatopoeia and repetition for effect?

I was inspecting the inside of the lantern cover and became side-tracked by a sound outside. Peering over the rim of the heavy glass door, it became apparent that the situation had worsened. The sound was a ship...and the ship was approaching. Time was of the essence. Whilst heaving the weighty covering from its position, I stumbled over my toolbox and tumbled backwards to the ground. CRASH!

The huge glass dome, which covered the inner-workings of the light, lay in pieces on the floor of the lighthouse. A feeling of helplessness hovered in the air and hope lay shattered alongside the glass casing. His heart pounded faster and faster until the drumming in his ears was unbearable and he felt suddenly very sick.

The horn sounded again. It was getting so close. I sat on the floor, trying find a solution inside my foggy mind. The waves beneath me crashed endlessly. My tie felt as if it were choking me. I took quick, shallow breaths. In the brief seconds which passed, I glanced out to the village and realised my only hope lay at the bottom of two hundred and fifty three steps.

Awkwardly scrambling to his feet, he darted for the door. The spiral staircase seemed endless, and with every step the lighthouse keeper's fears about the boat seemed to increase. Finally, the door was in sight. He ran, gasping, towards the exit. As he flung the door open, the sight which befell him was enough to make him stop. Momentarily, he stared. Walking towards him, with lanterns blazing and torches at the ready, were the inhabitants of nearly the entire village. Their smiles illuminated the pathway almost as much as the lights they carried. The journey back up the tower was one of optimism, and with every step he felt encouraged that all was not lost. After guiding the first group of villagers to the top of the lighthouse, with their lights and lanterns shining brightly in the darkness, the lighthouse keeper watched as others gathered in swathes along the clifftop. He watched as the ship safely navigated the rocks. He watched as strangers stood shoulder to shoulder with him and he watched knowing those strangers would soon be friends.

Task 5



Panic-stricken



The glass dome shattered into a hundred pieces.



I was filled with an instant dread



hope disappeared

How do you think
the lighthouse
keeper felt at this
point?

Use your thoughts to create your own version of the second paragraph about the lighthouse keeper's feelings.

Look back at the model from yesterday to help you.

Can you include repetition of a comparative adjective? E.g. faster and faster, closer and closer, nearer and nearer

Next, you need to think about what panic LOOKS like.

Look at the examples on the next two slides. Which is more successful at conveying the sense of urgency?

1) The horn sounded again. It was getting closer. I sat on the floor, trying find a solution inside my foggy mind. Waves beneath me crashed endlessly. My tie felt as if it were choking me. I took quick, shallow breaths. In the brief seconds which passed, I glanced out to the village and realised my only hope lay at the bottom of two hundred and fifty three steps.

2) The boat neared the lighthouse and I could hear the sound of the horn blaring through the pitch-black night. The sound of the roaring engine churned over and over and I could tell that, at the speed they were travelling at, they would reach the perilous rocks in around ten minutes. I sat on the cold metal of the lighthouse floor, trying to find a solution inside my foggy mind as to how I would stop the boat from approaching. The clothes around my neck felt restrictive and it felt almost as though my tie was attempting to choke me. Therefore, my breathing was difficult and I took quick, sharp, shallow breaths while I considered my options. Several seconds passed and I looked to the left of me down to the village at the bottom of the lighthouse and realised that my only hope lay at the bottom of two hundred and fifty three steps.

The longer paragraph contains some successful descriptions, however, the shorter version actually conveys the urgency and tension of the situation.

In this case, less is more.

Look at the shorter sentence constructions, the explanation of what is happening to the character's breathing, the use of well-chosen words and phrases to describe speed - quick, short, glance, brief.

Now, create your own version of this paragraph.

Watch the clip from 2m03s to the end and note down the key events. Look at the model text from the previous task to help you write your own final paragraph. Remember this will need to be in third person.

Look at the example sentences on the next slide to help you include different sentence structures.

Description	A warm, amber glow illuminated the clifftop, though the smiles from the villagers radiated much further.
Action	Waves seemed to crash endlessly against the bottom of the cliff; they chewed at the rocks and warned of a storm brewing.
Dialogue	'Thank goodness,' whispered the lighthouse keeper, under his breath. <i>(It is advised not to used dialogue in this piece unless other speech has already been used).</i>
Where things are	Below the towering lighthouse, the boat bobbed and rocked through the choppy sea.
Adverbs	Carefully navigating the spiralled staircase with their lamps and torches in-hand, the villagers moved upwards towards the lantern room.
Verbs	Scrambling over the clifftop, the villagers jostled into their positions to look out over the sea.
Estimation of the time	Several moments later, he emerged on to the platform and then out into the cold, night air.
Rhetorical question	Would the boat see them in time to turn?
Simile	The villagers stood, like a host of angels, guiding the ship to safety.