

Bolton School Entrance Exam
Creative Writing Sample Questions

1. Write a story with the title 'The Dare'.
2. Write a story in which a family gathering goes wrong.
3. Describe the way you and your family celebrate a particular occasion such as Christmas, Divali, birthdays etc.
4. Write about either a book, film or television programme you have enjoyed. Do not spend any longer than half the essay retelling what happens: you should also focus on *why* you liked it.
5. Choose a relative or a person you know who you think is particularly interesting and describe them in detail, explaining why you think they are interesting.
6. Write a story in which fear plays a big part. You may make it up or base it on something that has happened to you.
7. Write a story with the title 'The Secret'.
8. 'It was a terrible day...' Use this line to start a story.
9. Choose your favourite animal and imagine what it would be like to be him or her for a whole day. Begin your account by describing what sort of animal you are.
10. Write a story in which you have to do something difficult.
11. 'Every morning, dark marks were there on the kitchen step. What were they? How had they got there? I decided to investigate...' Complete the story.
12. 'Everything had changed...' Continue the story.
13. Write a story with the title 'Unusual Visitors'.
14. Imagine that you have moved and return to visit your old house. What do you find?
15. Write a story set in the past in Bolton, or any other northern town.

General Points

We are looking for creativity, imagination and the ability to write accurately. Some of the things we look particularly for are: vocabulary; narrative structure; sentence structure; generally accurate spelling and punctuation given the age of the pupils sitting the exam. Thirty minutes are allowed for this exam and pupils are expected to write approximately one or two sides of A4. Whilst we appreciate that pupils will attempt past questions as preparation, we discourage the use of 'standard', prepared pieces of writing as we want to see what the pupils are capable of, not what they have been coached to do!