

THE LIONEL BOWEN YOUNG WRITERS AWARD 2020  
RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY

# A CITY FOR TOMORROW

## WRITING TIPS

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# PRE-WRITING

Whether you are writing a story or a poem, start by drawing a mind map.

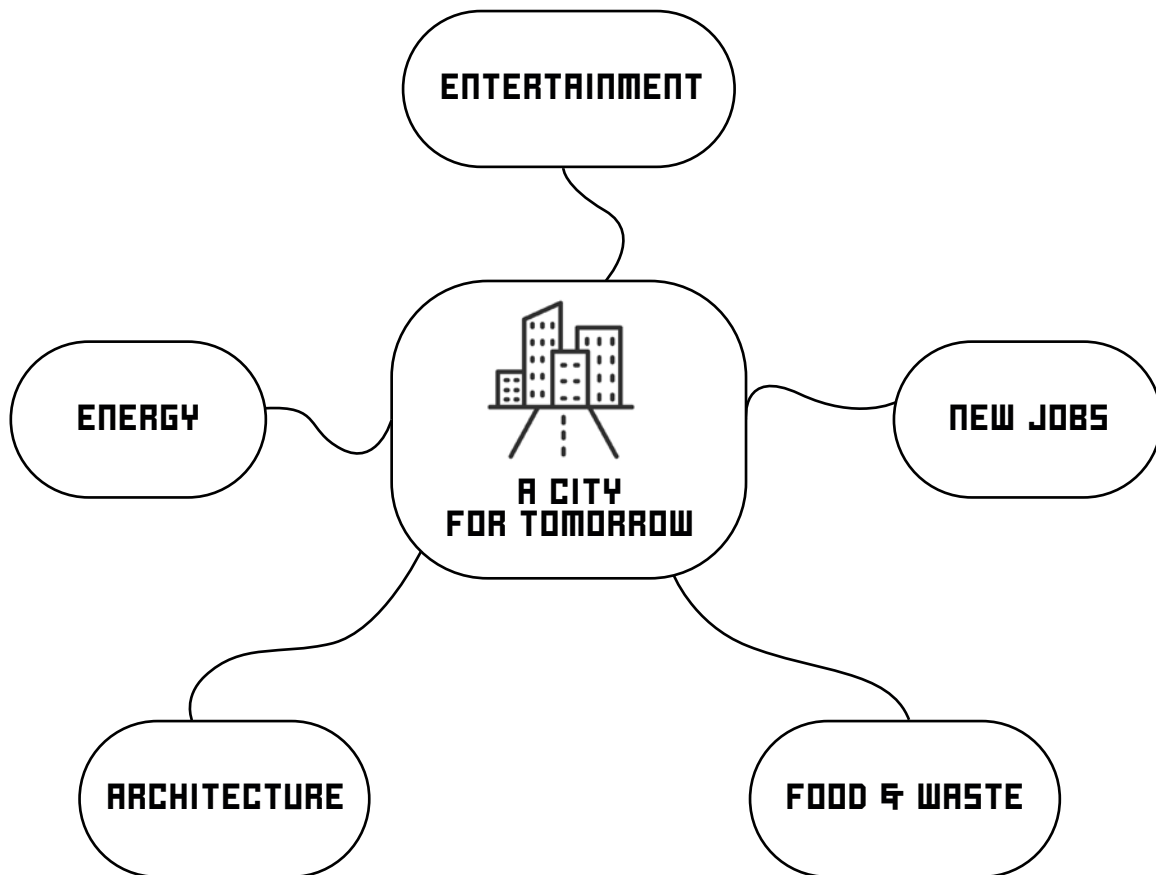
Using an A3 piece of blank paper and some coloured pens, draw a circle in the centre of your page and write: **A City for Tomorrow**.

You have been asked to consider how future transport will work, how food supply and waste will be managed and where energy to run everything will come from. Add "arms" to your circle using each of these topics as headings.

Write down as many ideas as you can.

Add new arms like architecture, entertainment, new jobs and communication. As you think of ideas you will start seeing connections between ideas. Draw these in too.

You can use the below diagram as a guide to get started.



# SHORT STORY WRITING

If you choose to write a short story, start by considering three elements: **Setting/World-building, Characters** and **Plot**.

ONE



## SETTING OR WORLD BUILDING

**Setting or worldbuilding** is a very important aspect of writing a story set in the future. You want the reader to believe your city could be real. You want the reader to be intrigued by your original ideas.

To help create your City for Tomorrow, draw a map. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does your city already exist or will you imagine a new city, perhaps on another planet?
2. What is the name and population of your city?
3. In what year will your story be set?
4. How is your city designed? Is it circular, rectangular or in the shape of a symbol?
5. What does a typical street look like? Describe the buildings.
6. What are the major landmarks and locations in your city?
7. What is the climate like?
8. How are the rules in your city different to our current laws?



TWO



## CHARACTERS

Now it is time to think of some fantastic **characters** for your story. One main character and a maximum of two characters will be enough for a short story.

The main character could be you or someone like you imagined in the future. Alternatively, think of a character in a book or movie you admire for inspiration.

*Main character*

Try "interviewing" your main character with these questions:

1. What is their name and age?
2. What do they look like? Do they have any distinguishing features?
3. What clothes do they wear?
4. Where do they normally live?
5. Who is in their family?

6. What is their main occupation?
7. What are they good at?
8. What are they scared of?
9. What is special about them?
10. Do they speak in a particular way?
11. What do they want more than anything?

*Other characters*

1. Who will your main character meet in your story?
2. Are they a friend or an enemy?
3. Are there other intelligent species living in your city?
4. Do they have any special features or abilities?

Take your time getting to know your characters before you start your story.



Last but certainly not least, let's think about **plot**. What will be the main events or problems that occur for your characters in the story? In a short story it is better to write a simple plot rather than making it too complicated.

However, if you are a more experienced writer looking for a challenge, you could try adding complexity by increasing the number of characters, moving forwards and backwards in time or changing point of view during the story.

To write a simple plan try the following:

1. The theme of this competition is 'City for Tomorrow'. Have a think: will your character start in the present day and time travel to the future, or will they live in the future already?
2. Draw the journey of your main character on your city map.
3. Think about three key events that occur and mark the locations of these events on your map. You could have an increasing level of problem or intensity with each of these events.
4. Write a plan for the beginning, middle and end of your story using a Story Mountain planner. I demonstrate how to create one in **Video 2**. The plan will help you place events in order and you are less likely to get stuck for ideas along the way.

## TOP TIPS FOR WRITING A DRAFT

1. Relax and imagine the story in your mind.
2. Use all your senses to tell your story. What do you see? Smell? Hear? Feel? Taste?
3. Try and write in sentences so that your story flows.
4. Keep your pen moving. Don't worry about mistakes in a draft. You can fix them later when you revise.
5. Stop every now and again and read your story aloud to yourself to keep ideas flowing.
6. If you get stuck, stop and draw a mind map or picture. Ask yourself: what if?
7. Remember there is no wrong way to tell a story. It's your story!

## POETRY WRITING

Poetry is a form of writing where we express our ideas and feelings in an intense and artistic way using a range of techniques such as imagery, rhythm, sound, rhyme, similes and metaphor.



### STEP ONE

Firstly, think about what you want to write about in your poem.

To achieve an intensity in your writing of a poem you need to write about something you deeply care about. What do you really care about in your City for Tomorrow? Is it the health of our planet? The animals who inhabit it? Climate change? Reducing pollution? Making sure we live in a free harmonious society?

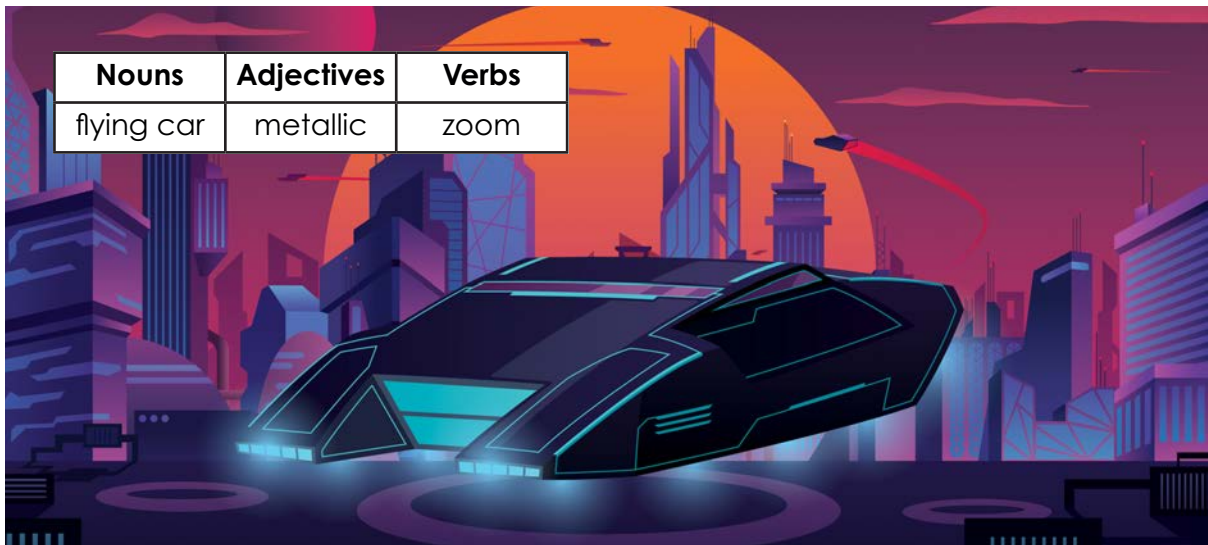
Or is it an excitement about the technology and extraordinary cityscape you can picture in your mind? Perhaps it is the vivid, shiny city you have created that you would like to capture in a poem.



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## STEP TWO

Start collecting the sparkling, vivid words that will show your ideas and feelings best. To do this, write three headings at the top of your page. Think of all the **nouns**, **adjectives** and **verbs** you could use and write them down. Keep a thesaurus handy to help build your word bank.



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## STEP THREE

Choose whether you will use a poetic form or write free verse.

There are many poetic forms to choose from. One form you could try is a **sensory poem**. Our senses are invaluable in bringing to life details in any writing, but especially poetry.

Write down at least 3 images for each sense by answering these questions:

1. What do you see?
2. What do you hear?
3. What do you smell?
4. What do you taste?
5. What do you feel(touch)?
6. What do you feel (emotion)?



