

Year 8 Creative Writing Lesson: "Behind the Face"

What are we learning?

How to create a first-person narrative that explores a character's thoughts, feelings, and identity during a life-changing event.

Why are we doing this? To show that we can:

- Use first-person voice effectively (*I, me...*)
- Show emotions through thoughts, actions, and description
- Include sensory details (*descriptive words and phrases that appeal to the five human senses of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch*).
- Develop a believable character voice (*make your writing sound like it really is Martin*).

YOU DO: Starter Activity (10 minutes)

What Do We See? Mind map ideas and responses based on these questions:

- How do we judge people when we first meet them?
- Is a person's appearance the most important thing about them?
- How might someone's life change if their appearance suddenly changed?

Exploring the Text (10 minutes)

Recapping the main events of *Face*:

- Martin is involved in an accident.
- His appearance changes dramatically.
- He struggles with how others see him and how he sees himself.

YOU DO: Create a mind map of emotions and challenges for Martin after the accident

- What emotions might Martin experience?
- How might his relationships change?
- What thoughts would run through his mind?

YOU DO: Main Writing Task (25 minutes)

Imagine You Are Martin

Write a diary entry from Martin's perspective on the night after the accident.

Include:

- His thoughts and fears.
- Descriptions of the hospital environment.
- His feelings about seeing his face.
- Worries about friends, family, and the future.

Challenge: Use at least three of the following techniques:

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Rhetorical question
- Short sentences for impact
- Sensory imagery

Sentence Starters

- *I couldn't stop thinking about...*
- *The room felt...*
- *When I looked in the mirror...*
- *What if everyone...*
- *For the first time, I realised...*

Extension Task

Write a second diary entry six months later. How has Martin changed? Has his understanding of identity developed?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Read back over your work from today. Highlight or underline your favourite sentence from your work.

Give yourself a WWW and EBI based on the following prompts:

- Which descriptions were most powerful?
- How did you show emotions rather than simply tell them? E.g. what kind of physical responses did Martin have?
- What have we learned about identity from Martin's experience?

