Week beginning 4th May 2020 **English learning for 9 days**

English Task 1: Write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting language that shows good awareness of the reader. Describe settings, characters and atmosphere.

Day 1 Monday:

Watch this clip from Litfilmfest:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRh6_3vrmIY&list=PL_odjZ7bN8F65VKih3RE0MQIQ_ObkisUU&index=7 **(As this is a YouTube clip, please ask an adult to help you log on and access this material).**

- They used this fabulous photograph as a stimulus for some writing.

- Or you can look at https://theoceanagency.org/ and find another image to write about.
- Write some sentences using the picture as a stimulus.
- Examples:
  - *The brain-like crenulations keep the young and vulnerable, peeking out, in wide eyed in curiosity.*
  - *I peeked out from the darkness over the rough rim of my coral home. The currently slowly flowed across me as I crept forward.*
- Make a Mind-Map of all the ambitious vocabulary and choices and ideas that come to your mind.

Day 2 Tuesday:

- Next, decide if your ideas from the picture lead to a poem, a story or perhaps a conservation campaign letter – **the choice is yours!**

I imagined that this is actually a mythical creature, mermaid or merman and it can 'shape-shift'. Here are some possible situations:

- This is a mythical beast that proves to be evil.
- The underwater world is threatened by mankind.
- The merman rules Atlantis as a perfect place.
- Mythical sea creatures are responsible for the Titanic disaster.

Here is an example of a poem about a Kelpie (a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting the lochs and pools of Scotland):

The Kelpie by Nick Baker

Scottish folklore often tells
Of cruel kelpies casting spells,
Down in deep, dark lochs they dwell,
Beware their wicked ways!
Weary traveller I inform,
These sprites adopt a horse's form,
On country walks it is the norm
To see them gently graze.

Folk alone in lonely lanes
Gladly take the horse's reins,
Innocence the creature feigns
Then takes the rider down
To the loch-side so remote;
The rider who the Kelpie caught
Is murdered now without a thought;
In icy loch they drown.

Graham Morphie, big and bold,
Down the quiet lane he strolled,
Saw a horse, but he'd been told
Of cunning Keplie charms.
He didn't try to mount it but
He took a knife and then he cut
The bridle rein and then he put
It somewhere safe from harm.

Matters took a different course
For the Kelpie now was forced
To live life as a normal horse,
Carting heavy loads.
Graham Morphie, so conceited
Saw his building work completed,
The Kelpie now was quite defeated;
No mercy Graham showed.

Graham broke a Kelpie spell
But misfortune soon befell
This errant knave, so listen well
To what I have to say.
Never, ever persecute
Kelpie, cat nor common newt
Or bad luck will follow suit
And ill will come your way!

Here is an extract from Matthew Arnold's poem The Forsaken Merman – it describes his home.

Sand-strewn caverns, cool and deep,
Where the winds are all asleep;
Where the spent lights quiver and gleam;
Where the salt weed sways in the stream;
Where the sea-beasts rang'd all round
Feed in the ooze of their pasture-ground;
Where the sea-snakes coil and twine,
Dry their mail and bask in the brine;
Where great whales come sailing by,
Sail and sail, with unshut eye […]

- **Write a first draft.**

Day 3 Wednesday:

- Look carefully at what you have written so far. Edit it before you **continue writing**.
- Whatever form your writing takes, make sure that you have included:
    - Ambitious vocabulary (see 1 Higher Level Vocabulary sheets for help).
    - A wide range of fronted adverbials to give your writing cohesion and describe the action that follows (see 2 Fronted Adverbials sheet for help).

Day 4 Thursday:

- **Edit and improve your writing** (ask a family member to read it with you). When you are happy, write your final version (or type if you wish).
- **Produce your final piece of writing- remember to give it a title if you have not already done so.**

Day 5 Friday: **It's a Bank Holiday – hurrah no work today!**

English Task 3: To identify and use passive and active verbs

Day 6 Monday:

Go to BBCBitesize Daily Lessons: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbngrj6
Learn how to use passive and active verbs.
MSH This lesson includes:

- two videos to help you understand passive and active verbs
- three activities

English Task 4: Write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting language that shows good awareness of the reader. Describe settings, characters and atmosphere.

Day 7 Tuesday:

The last time we were in school, I began reading you the story of Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. There is a fascinating history in story telling of writers featuring scientists on the verge of exciting discoveries. Sometimes, as with Merlin from the Arthurian legends, the scientist/wizard seems to be a wise, guiding spirit; in other stories, the deep knowledge they seek is threatening to humanity……. You are going to create a description of your own eccentric scientist in his/her room or laboratory.

Look at these paintings:

- https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/hans-holbein-the-younger-the-ambassadors
- https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/joseph-wright-of-derby-an-experiment-on-a-bird-in-the-air-pump

Focus on the objects and details because you will need to build in lots of details to make your character a convincing scientist.

- Make a 'Mind-Map' of details and ideas that you have so far.

Day 8 Wednesday:

Amelia B. Edwards was an Egyptologist and she wrote a story called *The Phantom Coach* in 1864. She describes a traveller who is lost in bad weather but finds shelter with an unusual man and his many strange possessions. The passage tells us about the scientist's room and the visitor's impressions of his personality.

- Read the passage from the story: 3 The Phantom Coach by Amelia B. Edwards.
- Use a line to infer whether the writer tell us that the scientists is threatening or fascinating - place words and phrases on the line.

Fascinating ⟶ Threat

- Use this word bank if you want some help: saints; devils; curiosity; wild; solitary; unknown instruments; packed; dingy, outside his realm; ancient; uncertain; edgy.

Day 9 Thursday:

- Plan your writing about 'the scientist and his/her room/laboratory'.
    - Which objects does your scientist surround himself/herself with?
    - Is your scientist in the past, present or future?
    - How will you link the scientist's personality with the setting?
    - How will you infer your scientist's good of evil intentions? You can try to be ambiguous if you wish.
    - Try to original and not use stereotyped ideas.
    - Draw diagrams if it helps you to form your ideas.
- Write a first draft of your description of an eccentric scientist in his/her room or laboratory.

Here is an example:
As I stepped into his room, the cold, dingy air buffeted my face. I looked around. The walls were bare and the floor had a threadbare rug. I glanced over and saw a cupboard filled with an array of books. I thought I saw rats inside but I couldn't see clearly because the glass was very opaque due to the gas that appeared to be seeping through it. I turned to leave, but a pitch-black silhouette blocked my retreat and then a voice spoke out.
'Why are you leaving now? You've only just come in but running away, well, that could be a sin.'
I spun on my heel and turned around to face him. He has cold, sad, mellow eyes which were dark blue - but also tinted green. He had perfect blond hair and did not have a lab-coat but a fine, blue business coat and matching tie. He spoke with a soft voice like smooth butter.
'Welcome,' he paused, 'to my lab,' he said with a grand flourish of his coat. I braced myself to discover the secrets that lay within.
By Jonathan Crossley.

Day 10 Friday:

- **Edit and improve your writing** (ask a family member to read it with you). When you are happy, write your final version (or type if you wish).
- **Produce your final piece of writing- remember to give it a title if you have not already done so.**

Well done! You are excellent writers year 6!