



# Years 5 & 6 Autumn Term - Optional Writing Homework



Complete one or more of the optional writing tasks based on characterisation. Each time you finish a task, bring it into school.

Remember: it's about quality over quantity – take your time to make your writing the very best it can be. Use the toolkit to help you.

Make sure your handwriting is neat and joined up, and your ideas show real care and effort.

## Show, Don't Tell Challenge

Choose an emotion (e.g. jealous, nervous, proud, guilty).

Write 3–4 sentences describing a character feeling it, but don't use the actual word.

Example: Instead of “She was nervous”, write “Her hands shook as she smoothed her skirt again and again, eyes fixed on the floor.”

## Two Reactions, One Event

Write about one event (e.g. opening a test paper, meeting a new puppy, losing a game).

Describe how two different characters react to it, showing their personalities through body language, thoughts, and dialogue.

## Diary of a Character

Pretend to be a character from a story you're reading at home.

- Write a diary entry starting with “Dear Diary, today I felt...”.
- Show the feelings through actions, not just the words.

## Emotion Flip

Write two mini-paragraphs about the same character in the same situation – but with different emotions.

Example: waiting to go on stage → one version excited, one version terrified.  
Compare how posture, thoughts, and dialogue change.

## The Lie

Write a scene where your character tells a lie.

Show how their body language, tone, or thoughts give them away.

The challenge: don't say “they lied” – let the reader figure it out.

## The Secret

Write a paragraph about a character who is keeping a secret.

Show how their body language, speech, and thoughts give clues, but don't actually reveal the secret itself.