

Creative Writing Tasks

from

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HOW TO
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WORLD

WITH A
CHICKEN
AND AN
EGG

1. Ivy thinks some collective nouns like *a crash of rhinos* and *a shiver of sharks* make total sense, but that *a bask of crocodiles* is wrong and it should be *a lurk lunge crunch* or *a snap wallop arrrgggh* or 'something more realistic' (page 51). Think of more onomatopoeic collective nouns for the following creatures:

- A swarm of bees: A _____ of bees
- A pack of dogs: A _____ of dogs
- A school of fish: A _____ of fish
- A smack of jellyfish: A _____ of jellyfish
- A troop of kangaroos: A _____ of kangaroos

2. Nathaniel imagines swimming with his grandmother in 'a clear, green ocean full of turtles' (page 108). Imagine you are swimming with turtles in a clear, green sea and describe what that might be like. Make it as descriptive as possible so your reader knows how it feels, what you can see, how it feels to be with the turtles and what you can see, hear and sense on the shore and in the air above you.

3. Ivy describes Jeremy's eyes as 'pale and grey as a January puddle' (page 171). How might you similarly describe:

1. blue eyes?
2. green eyes?
3. brown eyes?

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4. Write about Ivy from Rufus's point of view. What is she like as a pet owner?

5. Write a spooky story or paragraph about being on Gun Hill at night. What can you see, hear and smell, and how does it feel to be there? Try to make it as tense as possible by writing in short sentences, including the weather (pathetic fallacy) and using language dramatic verbs.

- *The wind was howling like ...*
- *Fog covered the landscape and, in the distance, I saw ...*
- *Suddenly ...*
- *My hair stood on end as...*
- *Behind me, I could see ...*
- *The silence of the night ...*
- *The pounding of the surf ...*
- *The harrowing cry of a ...*
- *Shadows danced on the pavement ...*
- *The cannons stood like ...*
- *I could feel my heart hammering like a ...*
- *I could hear the faint sound of ...*

6. Nathaniel's beach hut is called 'Sea and Land.' If you had a beach hut of your own, how would you decorate it and what would you put in it? What food would you keep there?

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7. Imagine you are looking at (or that you are one of) the baby turtles hatching on the beach. How does it feel to hatch from the egg and race to the sea, or to watch it? Be as descriptive as you can.

8. Nathaniel makes a poster to slow motorists down near hedgehog crossings (page 295). Either make a poster for this, or make another one that raises awareness of either:

- creatures in danger
- ways to help the planet.

9. Write a newspaper article, a blog post or a letter to someone about the turtle eggs on the beach. If you'd prefer, you could create a podcast or a televised news report for TV.

10. Write the dialogue of a conversation between you and an animal. What would you talk about? What would they have to say? What bothers them and what would they like humans to do for them?

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