**500 Word Short Story**

Over the next two lessons, I’d like you to plan and write a short story that contains some of the ‘ingredients’ that we’ve encountered in *Lamb to the Slaughter* and *The Landlady*. Your job is to transform a scene that appears to be quite ‘ordinary’ into something exciting, scary or mysterious. The challenge with this task is to think hard and *craft* your writing so that it fills roughly 500 words. Think: quality over quantity.

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| 1. Describe an ‘**ordinary**’ scene (e.g. a supermarket, the front room of a house, a park) 2. Subtly indicate that things aren’t quite as they **seem** (e.g. the scene might be eerily quiet) 3. Create a **problem** for your character or a challenge they need to overcome (e.g. they might get lost) 4. **Decide** whether or not you want them to be successful 5. **End** the story (e.g. with a nice and tidy resolution or a cliff-hanger) |



**If you’re stuck for ideas, continue (or adapt) the passage below…**

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| *The day started with all the grim predictability of the one before. And the one before that. Life in lockdown was dull and Sabina was fed-up of it. She thought back to when the announcement was first made and remembered the contrast between the scruffy blond hair and the dark, hooded eyes of the Prime Minister; he had talked about the importance of staying safe and saving lives. And, of course, she hadn’t disagreed. But any early excitement she had felt – no school! – had soon disappeared and she longed for normality. So, what to do? Perhaps a short walk in the park. Yes, why not? So, off she went. However, at the precise moment that Sabina closed the front behind her, she noticed…* |