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**Writing Tips:**

* Give yourself time to warm up! Practice on something that won’t be in your piece of writing. You could try and describe the weather or write about your pet or even why you like your favourite cereal so much!
* Don’t put pressure on yourself. It doesn’t matter if you write your piece in 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 days – it’s not a race! Writing takes as long as you need it to take.
* Learn to trust your own imagination – because no one has an imagination like yours! Your friend won’t write like you and you won’t write like your favourite author and that’s the whole point, that’s why writing is so much fun. Because everyone’s writing is different! Use your words and your ideas!
* If you don’t know what to write – that’s ok! All the best writers find it hard to write sometimes. You could read a chapter of your favourite book or talk to your friends or your family or play your favourite game – it’ll give your imagination a chance to get working in the background!
* Keep a notebook handy so if any ideas come to you out of the blue, you have somewhere to put them!

**Creative Questions for your Imagination:**

When you’re starting a piece of creative writing, like a poem or a story, you can give your ideas a boost by asking yourself some questions – think of it as having a conversation with your imagination!

* Do you have something that you want to say to your readers? Like an important idea that you feel everyone should know, or something that you’ve learned that would you think everyone should learn?
* Has something interesting happened to you that would be fun and exciting for you to write about? Because writing should be fun!
* Can you put yourself into your writing? If you’re brave, can you write a story about being brave?
* What kind of readers would you like to read your writing?

The questions are endless! So you get to decide what the most important things about your character are, and that goes into the story.

And don’t forget: IT’S YOUR STORY! (OR POEM!)

**Reflective Writing:**

There’s also another kind of writing you can do. It’s called reflective writing and it’s the kind of writing that you might do for a journal or a diary entry, or a personal essay (which is you writing about your thoughts and your feelings, your ideas about the world and your opinions). Think of it as you checking in with yourself and how you’re feeling, having a conversation with yourself in writing and finding out things about yourself.

Sometimes, reflective writing means you writing about something that’s happened to you during the last while. But it doesn’t have to be about Something – it can be about Anything! You could write a reflective piece about how a rainy day in quarantine made you feel – nothing might have happened that day but your feelings and thoughts about it are still important.

There are lots of things you can think about when you’re writing a journal or diary entry, or a poem;

* How do you feel right now?
* Have you learned anything new since quarantine began? Do you think you’ve changed at all? What about the world?
* Have you been confused by anything? Inspired or excited by anything?
* Do you have questions about what’s happening? Have you found any answers?
* How have you been staying connected to your family and friends?
* What do you miss the most? Do you think the world has changed forever because of the pandemic? What kind of change would you like to see? What do you think the world will be like when quarantine is over?
* What would you like to do when the rules change and we’re allowed to move around?
* What is your community like? Has it changed at all?
* What are you thankful for?

So really, when you think about it, reflective writing is like looking at yourself in the mirror and asking yourself a question – it’s all about what you think and how you feel.

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