

Excellent – Year 7 Writing

Task: Using the image as stimulus, write a story.

America, 1896. The Gray family are not much different to any other. Thomas Gray was one of the most feared outlaws in the town of Tumbleweed. He used to work with one of the most feared gangs in the West, therefore gaining his prestigious name of an Outlaw. Thomas Gray was a bad man. A really horrid, stone-cold murderer, and as well as being an outlaw, he was a great gunslinger. By the age of 9, he knew how to spin his revolver forwards, backwards and sideways like there was no tomorrow. He used to kill people for fun; he'd slit their throats open so, so, so deep that you could see bone through the endless spray of crimson blood. But that was his old lifestyle...

He met a woman in the General Store when he bumped into her and couldn't apologise enough. He begged her forgiveness just like a child convincing their mother for hard-boiled candies. He insisted on taking her to the local saloon for a "few" drinks.

"That was nice, ma'am." Thomas said while softly kissing her hand. "We should meet again sometime?"

She agreed and said goodbye. Ever since then, they have been together. Thomas and Abigail. But not all happy love stories end perfectly...

1899, "The Wild West is dying." It was another regular day for a regular family. Jack Gray was asking his father what was for breakfast, Abigail was hanging up laundry and Thomas was showing Travis, his son, how to spin a gun.

"No, son. Don't move your wrist, it's all in the arm, like -" Thomas was interrupted by an aggressive bang at the door, a voice shouting sorry, and then a more polite, friendly knock at the door. Thomas opened it, while Travis continued to spin the pistol.

"I do apologise for interrupting your evening, sir," the tired woman said, "but I'm in need of a ride home, for my horse has bucked me off and I am now injured." The woman had a gun in her apron, and a beard. Nobody could fool former Outlaw and Gunslinger Thomas Gray.

"Jack, Travis, go into the basement and fetch me my saddle, please."

"Okay, Pa." the children scurried away as Abigail looked quizzically at Thomas. He signaled for her to go back into the yard.

"Please, mister!" the bearded woman sobbed unconvincingly.

Connectives are interesting and move the story along, **linking ideas** in a creative way.

Ideas are creative and draw on own reading as models.

Vocabulary is sophisticated.

Use of interesting **structural devices** to develop story ideas.

Punctuation marks are used **accurately** and for effect.

A **range of literary devices** are used with precision for effect adding to the tone of the piece.

Speech, including accurate **punctuation**, is **seamlessly embedded** in the writing to move the narrative forward.

Paragraphs vary in length, with a **range of sentence structures** to build suspense for the reader.

Sophisticated sentence structures, with accurate **punctuation**, using **varied vocabulary** add a twist.

Narrative structure is interesting and keeps the reader engaged throughout. **Humour** adds to the engagement.

Vocabulary choices continue to be adventurous and sophisticated, suiting the style of writing to add to the tone.



“This doesn’t happen to be an ambush, and does that man behind the tree have anything to do with you at all?”

“No, not at all mister,” she said, “and John, get behind that tree!” she mouthed in a stage whisper to the man behind the tree. Thomas **hovered** his hand over his gun.

“Ha Hah!” the bearded woman screeched. She ripped off her bonnet and wig and revealed she was a man. “This is an ambu-“

Thomas put two bullets into his chest. The man behind the tree grinned **sinisterly**. He shot Thomas in the stomach while Thomas shot him in the neck. The man dropped to the ground, while Thomas **stumbled, clutching** his stomach.

A **wide range of interesting vocabulary choices** show a sophisticated grasp of language.

I write in a way that **gains and keeps the reader’s interest** and which is **very well suited to the type of writing** I am asked to produce.

I use a **wide range of ambitious vocabulary and other language features** with a **range of paragraphs and conjunctions** to organize and link **high-level ideas**

I use a **wide range of sentence starters, lengths and structures for impact**. My **spelling is accurate**, and I use a **wide range of ambitious vocabulary**.