

Year 6 Literacy – week starting 27th September 'The Spiderwick Fieldguide' Explanation Texts

Day 1 Writing Task – What's the difference between describing and explaining?

Choose one of the images below and write a description of what is happening. Describe what you can see and consider your language choices carefully.



For the same picture, try writing a formal explanation including technical vocabulary to explain what is happening.

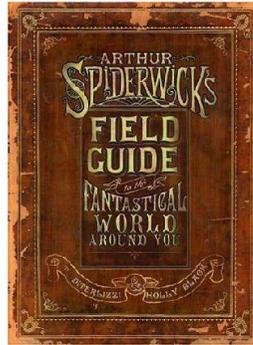
Day 2 Writing Task – Watch the Honda Cog video clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve4M4UsJQo>

Can you write an explanation for a small part of the video clip explaining exactly what is happening?

Try to include:

- logical order (paragraphs to structure and separate information)
- factual – uses some specialised vocabulary
- tell us how AND why
- uses causal conjunctions (because, so, this causes)
- uses adverbs of time (then, next, subsequently, some time later)

Day 3 Introduction to the text – Have you ever heard the story of Arthur Spiderwick? He is a fictional scientist who discovers a hidden world; one that most people can't see. He discovers weird and wonderful creatures in the natural world around us but he also finds



more than he bargained for. Some of the creatures he discovers are dangerous and deadly. Watch the start of this clip (up to 1min 44secs) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=387KRtYq2mE>

Day 4 Dictionary Definitions Task – Technical language in an explanation is really important as it makes you sound like the expert; that you know what you are talking about and can be convincing.

Using a dictionary, look up the definitions of the words below. Write the definitions in your own words.

Appearance Habitat Diet Attribute

Using a thesaurus, now look for synonyms for these words. List them and consider which ones sound more formal and technical.

Day 5 – Next week we will be writing our own explanation for a new species of creature that we have discovered. We have to consider every aspect of this creature's life as we are going to be writing as if we are the experts.

Explore some of your own ideas for new species of strange little creatures that you might discover. Draw some ideas and make some notes about:

- appearance and why they look like that
- habitat (where they live and how they are adapted to living there)
- diet (what they eat and how they hunt etc)
- attributes (what special skills or talents does the creature have?)

