

# OPTION 3 – NARRATIVE (SHORT STORY)

## Context

Throughout this unit we have been studying the experiences of people seeking asylum and the 'stories' that are inherent in these journeys and responses. We have examined how various texts communicate and represent these stories and how language and other features help shape meaning.

## Purpose

1. To demonstrate and apply your understanding of creative writing and the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum by planning, drafting and polishing a short narrative about these experiences and issues.

## Task

Write a short narrative that communicates a 'story' of seeking asylum or refuge in Australia. You have some creative liberty in this task, though remember to plan your story around CHARACTERS, develop an appropriate PLOT and SETTING and use an appropriate variety of creative writing devices.

Your short narrative could be derived from your own knowledge based on studied content in the unit,

## OR

You could take inspiration from one of the poems studied in the Stories of Fear lesson (or a similar poem about seeking asylum or refugee experiences) such as Escape by Mercedes Killeen (below). If choosing the second option, consider some of the key 'events' or 'feelings'/'emotions' that are referred to and transform these into the narrative.

## In your planning and drafting, pay close attention the following:

- **Narration:** First or Third person
- **Principle of 'Show don't Tell'**
  - Suggesting what is taking place instead of stating it explicitly (e.g. "his hands trembled around the lock as it rattled against the cage" is more effective in communicating the character's nerves and situation than simply writing "he was very nervous and his hands trembled on the lock.").
- **Descriptive Language**
  - Strong adjectives and verbs that affect meaning when describing people, places, events etc.
- **Sensory Language**
  - Language describing things by appealing to the five senses (touch, sight, sound, taste, smell).
- **Figurative Devices**
  - Such as metaphors, similes, personification etc.
- **Variation in Sentence Structure**
- **Using Dialogue and Punctuation appropriately.**

**Length:** 600-800 words

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**EXAMPLE POEM: Escape by Mercedes Killeen** (available from [http://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/poetry\\_book.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/poetry_book.pdf))

I could taste the flavour of our vivid nation on my tongue,  
which the hostility and bloodshed managed to dilute.  
For I cherished its warmth,  
embraced the spirit,  
and counselled its youth.

Yet with my entire body trembling,  
I laid down on the racked surface I knew as the floor.  
Tears streamed down my rueful face,  
as the sun's rays beat down on my broken body,  
and I yearned to flee through the door.

The aching in my heart simply wanted relief-  
for any remedy to chase away the fear.  
Each day the tears became greater,  
flooding my distressed soul that knew  
of the heartless soldiers marching near.

With escape as my only choice,  
my heart began to race.  
I choked on my breath as sweat trickled down my skin,  
and desperately prayed for grace.

My sister and I packed our entire lives,  
into a mere few torn up bags.  
Kissed the village goodbye,  
and grasped each other's shaking hands.