

Descriptive v.s. Narrative Writing

Read the texts below and answer the questions to check your understanding.

Descriptive Writing	Narrative Writing
The sea churned like a cauldron, its black waves crashing violently against one another. Lightning tore across the sky in jagged streaks, briefly illuminating the chaos below.	The storm struck suddenly, tearing the calm night apart. One moment the waves lapped gently against the hull; the next, they rose like walls of black water. I gripped the rail, knuckles white, as the ship tilted violently.
The air was heavy with salt, sharp and stinging as it whipped into every crevice of skin. The wind howled with a wild, untamed fury, rattling the ship's ropes until they sang with strain.	"Hold on!" the captain roared, his voice barely cutting through the wind's shriek. Rain lashed my face, blinding me, but I stumbled across the slick deck toward the mast.
Overhead, clouds swelled into monstrous towers, smothering the faint light of the moon. The deck glistened with water, slick and treacherous, while every plank groaned beneath the endless assault.	Another crash—thunder shook the air as lightning revealed the monstrous waves towering above us. My heart hammered; the sea seemed determined to swallow us whole.
Each booming clap of thunder seemed to shake the world itself, echoing across the endless expanse. In every direction, only storm and sea remained, a vast, merciless expanse of water and sky locked in battle.	A rope whipped past, and I seized it, clinging with every ounce of strength. Around me, crewmen shouted, slipping, pulling, fighting to survive. In that chaos, one thought burned clear: if we let go, the sea would win.
<p>How is the sea first described?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Calm and gentleb) Bright and sparklingc) Churning like a cauldron	<p>How does the storm arrive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Slowly, with warningb) Suddenly, tearing the calm night apartc) Quietly, without sound

Which technique is used in the phrase “The sea churned like a cauldron”?

- a) Simile
- b) Metaphor
- c) Personification

The description “Lightning tore across the sky in jagged streaks” appeals most to which sense?

- a) Taste
- b) Smell
- c) Sight

What device is used in “The wind howled with a wild, untamed fury”?

- a) Onomatopoeia
- b) Personification
- c) Simile

What detail shows the ship is under strain from the storm?

- a) The ropes rattled until they sang with strain
- b) The planks shone brightly
- c) The moon lit up the deck

The line “The deck glistened with water, slick and treacherous” suggests the deck is:

- a) Safe and stable
- b) Dangerous and slippery
- c) Bright and colourful

The phrase “they rose like walls of black water” is an example of:

- a) Simile
- b) Metaphor
- c) Onomatopoeia

What action shows the narrator’s fear and desperation?

- a) Singing to calm the crew
- b) Gripping the rail, knuckles white
- c) Sleeping through the storm

The captain shouting “Hold on!” mainly shows:

- a) Calm reassurance
- b) Urgency and command
- c) Confusion

Which line contains onomatopoeia or vivid sound description?

- a) “the wind’s shriek”
- b) “rain lashed my face”
- c) “my heart hammered”

What does the line “the sea seemed determined to swallow us whole” show?

- a) A metaphor of the sea as an enemy
- b) The sea’s kindness
- c) The narrator’s boredom

What happens when the rope moves across the deck?

- a) It glows in the dark
- b) It whips past, nearly hitting people
- c) It ties itself into a knot

Which phrase is an example of sound imagery?

- a) “booming clap of thunder”
- b) “black waves crashing”
- c) “monstrous towers of cloud”

What effect does the metaphor “a vast, merciless expanse of water and sky locked in battle” create?

- a) It makes the storm sound playful
- b) It suggests the sea is peaceful
- c) It shows the storm as a fierce struggle

The repetition of words like “expanse” at the end helps emphasise:

- a) The endlessness of the storm
- b) The smallness of the ship’s crew
- c) The safety of the ocean

What overall mood is created by the descriptive passage?

- a) Calm and hopeful
- b) Chaotic and threatening
- c) Happy and joyful

The short, sharp sentences like “My heart hammered” are used to:

- a) Slow down the action
- b) Increase tension and pace
- c) Make the scene funny

What single thought burns clearly in the narrator’s mind during the chaos?

- a) If we let go, the sea would win
- b) They want to find treasure
- c) They wish to rest

What overall mood is created by the narrative passage?

- a) Peaceful and gentle
- b) Dangerous and suspenseful
- c) Cheerful and light-hearted