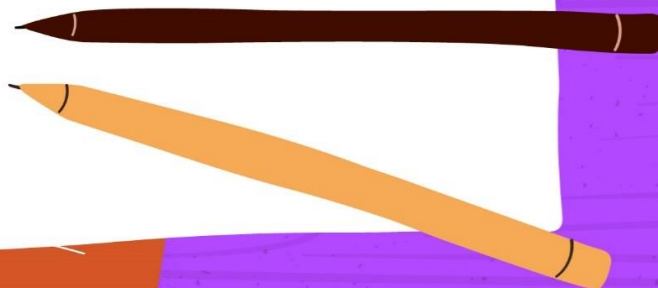




TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO WRITE MINI SAGAS!



PAULA ROSANA ASAD
English Language Teacher and Mindulf Educator

About this Resource



Descriptive Writing & Narrative Skills with ESL/EFL Mini Sagas

Discover a fun and creative way to teach descriptive writing and narrative skills to ESL/EFL students with mini sagas! Give them the right tools and activities to improve their descriptive writing skills and master the use of descriptive words.

Contents

- About Mini Sagas
- Reading passages: 14 Mini Sagas!
- Vocabulary/Language worksheet
- Descriptive language. Similes and metaphors.
- How to write a mini-saga
- Rubrics
- Prompts for writing
- Handouts for students

Who is this for?

- Middle School Students
- ESL EFL learners with an intermediate, or upper intermediate level of English

Get started today and improve your students' writing skills in an engaging and fun way!

THANK YOU!!!

You might be interested in these resources. Click on the pictures below and check out these products!



♥ **LET'S CONNECT!**



If you have a question concerning this product, you can send me an e-mail: theresourcefulenglishteacher@gmail.com

About Mini Sagas



A mini-saga is a short story compiling exactly 50 words (not including the title). The 50 words must create a complete story. Mini-sagas are especially useful for ESL/EFL learners as they are a great stepping stone to writing short stories. For students with a high level of English, using more complex mini-sagas can be a fantastic way to teach descriptive words and complex sentences.

As we discussed earlier, a Mini-Saga is a unique form of storytelling that challenges writers to craft a complete narrative within just 50 words. Despite its name, it's anything but "mini." It's more like a condensed short story that still needs a beginning, a climax, and an ending, all in a concise manner. Skilled writers use powerful descriptions to create a strong visual impact and engage the reader's imagination.

These stories are always told by a narrator, not by the author. It is also up to the author to decide how to present the Mini-Saga: it can be written in rhymes or prose, and the graphical design can be adapted as well.

A Moment in Venice

They collided in St Mark's Square. As they apologized, in their different languages, he sensed that something had passed between them. His heart had been touched. In that second something almost magical had occurred. He watched her vanish amongst the gathering of people and pigeons.

She had stolen his wallet. (Paul Talman)

School

Peter knew he was in trouble. His teacher had warned him that if he was late again he would be in big trouble. He ran all the way to school without stopping. When he arrived he was shocked to find the gates were locked. Then he realised.... It was Saturday!



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Lost Love

Footprints faded and took their own paths. Photos gathered dust, and their busy lives made them forget they were made for each other. But God knows and memories haunted them. Years passed. Fate smiled. A chance meeting rekindled hope. Wrinkled smiles met, recognizing love. Soulmates reunited, as timeless affection triumphed.

The Leap

Fear overwhelmed. Dangling from the cliff's edge, his doubts echoed. A leap of faith awaited. Heart racing, he closed his eyes and jumped. Free falling, his spirit soared. Wings sprouted. Defying gravity, he realized his dreams could be a reality. Limitless possibilities unfolded. Life embraced him, as he embraced life.



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The Discovery

Ancient scrolls unveiled closely guarded secrets. A hidden chamber in Africa, untouched for centuries, beckoned. Curiosity guided their steps. Illuminated by torchlight, they marveled at forgotten knowledge. Timeless wisdom spilled forth, unveiling cosmic mysteries. Suddenly, the world they knew changed that day and they embraced the power of ancient truths.

Dark Reflections

Mirror shattered. Jagged shards scattered across the floor. A sinister presence loomed. As nightfall descended, the room transformed. An eerie figure emerged from the fractured glass, distorted and menacing. Its eyes gleamed with malevolence. Reality twisted. A reflection turned into a nightmare, as the trapped souls met their twisted fate.



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Forgotten Promise

For two rough decades, he waited faithfully. Every day, he visited the park bench where they made their promise. Finally, after 20 years, she appeared, aged and fragile. He smiled, ready to fulfill their pact. But she passed by, unaware of his presence. Their promise lost to time's relentless grip.

Silent Symphony

The maestro lifted his black baton. The orchestra prepared for their grand performance. As the conductor waved his arms, silence filled the concert hall. The audience silently watched, bewildered. His movements were graceful, but the music was absent. The maestro had gone deaf, conducting a symphony only he could hear.



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The Last Sanctuary

Concrete jungles stretched for miles, nature looked like faded tapestry, Air thick with pollution, hues drained away, skies tainted gray. In the ruins, a hidden haven bloomed. A single tree stood tall, defying despair. Its leaves whispered sad tales of a forgotten world, reminding humanity of what they had lost.

Digital Chains

Society plugged in, lost in a virtual labyrinth. Wide Screens illuminated faces devoid of emotion. Reality dulled, souls imprisoned by algorithms. The system thrived, extracting every byte of humanity. But in the darkest corners, a rebellion grew. They sought to unplug, to reclaim their minds, and break the digital chains.



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Enigmatic Portrait

The portrait hung in the public gallery, captivating all who gazed upon it. Countless artists attempted to replicate its allure. One celebrated painter dared to uncover its secrets. Brushstrokes revealed hidden codes, whispered stories. The enigmatic portrait held a key, an unsolved mystery that unlocked the doors of the unknown.

Vanishing Act

The stage was set. The magician's assistant nervously stepped into the black box. The crowd held their breath as the lid closed. Abracadabra! The box opened, but she was gone. Gasps filled the theater. Whispers echoed. The great illusion unveiled. She had vanished, leaving only intrigue and unanswered questions behind.



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Recipe Mishap

Chef Jack's masterpiece awaited impatiently. His secret ingredient? The last jar on the shelf. As he opened it, disaster struck. Out came a cloud of dust and a small label: "Expired 10 years ago!" The dinner guests watched in horror as the expensive dish transformed into a chaotic culinary experiment.

Mischievous Pup

Max, the mischievous pup, had a secret obsession. He loved to collect all kinds of socks. Each night, he secretly sneaked into closets, leaving behind puzzled owners. Sock after sock vanished until a mountain emerged under Max's bed. His love for fashion? A canine runway show only he could appreciate.



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Vocabulary



WRITING



1. Read the mini sagas provided by your teacher. What type of language can you find in the stories? Categorize them into love, dystopian, horror, fantasy and mystery stories.
2. Classify the descriptive words/phrases you found in the mini sagas and put them under the correct column. You can add your own words! Use the words in this chart to write your own mini sagas.

LOVE	DYSTOPIAN	HORROR	SCI-FI	MYSTERY	FUNNY

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Descriptive Language



WRITING



Why is it important to use descriptive language when narrating a story? Discuss your ideas with your partner and write them below.

What descriptive words and phrases related to sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell can you think of?

SIGHT

SMELL

TOUCH

SOUND

TASTE



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Descriptive Language



Descriptive Writing Techniques

You can enhance descriptive writing using similes and metaphors.

A simile is a comparison between two things that uses the word like or as: Her smile is as bright as sunshine.

A metaphor is a direct comparison between two things that does not use like or as: Her smile is sunshine.

Are these sentences similes or metaphors?

Dad ate his hamburger like a vacuum cleaner. _____

The snow was cotton balls falling on my face. _____

His arms felt like noodles. _____

The thunder was as loud as fireworks. _____

His sweet voice was velvet to my ears. _____

The car was a jet when it passed by us. _____

I was as hungry as a horse. _____

He acts like a bull in a china shop! _____

She is an octopus at juggling tasks. _____



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How to Write Mini Sagas



1. Read the Mini Sagas provided by your teacher. After you read at least three, think about what they have in common. Share your ideas in class.

2. Draft a mini-saga of 60 and 70 words and exchange it with a partner.

3. With your partner, reduce the mini sagas to exactly 50 words.

Check out this word counter! <https://wordcounter.net/>

- eliminate redundant words (especially adjectives and adverbs)
- use active, not passive verbs.
- using hyphens (correctly!) to form single words
- use elisions/abbreviations (e.g. would've)
- create one complex sentence to replace several simple sentences
- use semi-colons instead of connectives

4. Add an interesting title for your story!

7. Hand in your mini-saga for correction and feedback.

Re-write if necessary.

8. Finally, you can add an illustration and display your mini-saga in your classroom or school hall.



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Useful Resources for Students



Word Counter: This is an essential tool when writing a mini saga. Students can use it to avoid counting, and controlling the number of words they are using.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Collocation Dictionary: Collocations are word combinations that naturally occur together in a language. Using collocations in writing makes the language flow more smoothly and sound more natural to native speakers. It helps avoid awkward or stilted language that may result from using unrelated or mismatched words.

[CLICK HERE](#)

GPTictionary: This is a next-generation thesaurus that helps non-native English speakers enhance their language abilities. In this dictionary, the user describes the word that he/she needs and the AI will find the words that fit the request.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Hemingway Editor: It is designed to help users improve their writing by providing feedback on readability and style. The Hemingway Editor analyzes text and highlights areas that may be difficult to read or understand.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Rubrics



	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Not Yet
Word limit	Exactly 50 words.	Slightly over/under 50 words.	Significantly over/under 50 words.	Far exceeding/short of 50 words.
Narrative Structure	Clearly follows a narrative structure with an engaging introduction, a well-developed conflict, a compelling climax, and a satisfying resolution.	Mostly follows a narrative structure, but some elements may be weak or lacking clarity.	Attempts to follow a narrative structure, but lacks coherence or fails to effectively engage the reader.	Narrative structure is unclear or absent.
Grammar	Excellent grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation.	A few errors in grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation, but not many	Shows a pattern of errors in spelling, grammar, syntax and/or punctuation. Could also be a sign of lack of proofreading.	many errors.
Descriptive Language	Rich and vivid descriptions effectively engage the reader, creating a clear visual image and evoking emotions.	Descriptions are mostly effective and help create a visual image, but could benefit from further development or more precise language.	Descriptions are limited or lack depth, resulting in a less engaging reading experience	Descriptions are minimal or non-existent.

Vocabulary KEY



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Fate smiled. Rekindled hope. Soulmates reunited. Timeless affection triumphed. Heartfelt connection. Unbreakable bond. Whispered promises.	Air thick with pollution. Skies tainted gray. Defying despair. Virtual labyrinth. Desolate landscapes. Suppressed individuality. Lost hope and shattered dreams. Eroded moral values. Bleak future.	A sinister presence loomed. An eerie figure emerged. Distorted and menacing figure. Eyes gleamed with malevolence, Trapped souls. Twisted fate. Dread-filled atmosphere. Spine-tingling suspense. Bone-chilling terror.	Daring voyage. Marveled at celestial wonders. Marveled at forgotten knowledge. Explored the uncharted realms of the cosmos. Transcended the boundaries of time and space. Survived in a post-apocalyptic world.	The crowd held their breath. Gasps filled the theater. Enigmatic portrait unveiled a web of secrets. Delved into the depths of the unknown. Meticulously analyzed the evidence.	Mischievous pup. Bursting with laughter. Caught up in a series of wacky mishaps. Hilarious misunderstandings. Nonstop laughter. Lighthearted amusement. Laugh-out-loud moments. Comical chaos. Chaotic culinary experiment.

Descriptive Language KEY



WRITING



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descriptive language helps readers visualize scenes, characters, and emotions more vividly, making the story more engaging and immersive.

What descriptive words and phrases related to sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell can you think of?

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Radiant Glimmering
Breathtaking Vibrant
Enchanting Pristine
Luminous Majestic
Serene Mesmerizing

SMELL

Fragrant Aromatic
Pungent Sweet-scented
Fresh Alluring
Heavenly Spicy
Floral Earthy

TOUCH

Silky Velvet-like
Rough Soft
Prickly Smooth
Coarse Tender
Textured Tingly

SOUND

Melodious Thunderous
Harmonious Echoing
Whispering Soothing
Resonant Clattering
Serene Rhythmic

TASTE

Bitter Sweet
Tangy Salty
Savory Spicy
Rich Tart
Refreshing Delicate

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You can enhance descriptive writing using similes and metaphors.

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The snow was cotton balls falling on my face. **METAPHOR.**

His arms felt like noodles. **SIMILE.**

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The car was a jet when it passed by us. **METAPHOR.**

I was as hungry as a horse. **SIMILE.**

He acts like a bull in a china shop! **SIMILE.**

She is an octopus at juggling tasks. **METAPHOR.**

THANK YOU!!!

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AND BE THE FIRST TO SEE FREEBIES,
SALES AND NEW RESOURCES!**



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