Writing Pack for Monday 11\textsuperscript{th} January – Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} January
Monday 11\textsuperscript{th} January.

LO: Using precise and powerful vocabulary for a settings description.

Today we will use this picture of what Reading Abbey looked liked in the medieval times (1066-1485) as a stimulus for our writing.

Begin by making a list of adjectives to describe the picture you see. Here are a couple to start you off....

- Majestic
- Huge

Now consider this sentence:

The Abbey was at the side of the river.

Now, let's try to improve it by adding one of our adjectives, here is my example:

The \textbf{majestic} Abbey was at the side of the river.

Now, let's add an adverbial phrase to the beginning of the sentence followed by a comma.

\textit{On a grey, thunderous morning, the majestic Abbey towered over the river.}
Now write three of your own sentences describing the picture. Try to include: adjectives, precise verbs and an adverbial phrase.

What colours do you see? Look for different colours and also look for the same shade of the same colour. See if you can write at least some of the colours in a descriptive way eg rather than ‘brown’ you could write ‘chocolate brown’ or ‘reddish brown’.
Tuesday 12th January

LO: To develop a character profile

Today we will use this image from the Abbey Wharf picture to write create some character profile. I want you to choose one of the people from the image (you may need to make it larger in your folders or use your imagination). Answer the following questions about the character:

What is their name?

What is their age?

What do they look like? (Include details eg long, pointed nose, coarse, black hair)

Who is in their family? (brothers, sisters, who else?)

What sort of house do they live in? (remember this is the olden days)

What work do they do? And if they don’t how do they fill their time?

What makes them happy?

Is there anything that makes them worried?

What else makes your character unique?
**Wednesday 13th January**

**LO: To plan a story**

Now you have some descriptive sentences and a character profile, you are going to start thinking about putting them into a story set in Reading during the time of the Abbey.

This is a very basic plot outline. It will help you to write a short story. Remember that each story and each writer is different, so you may want to change the story as you write it. You may want to add extra stages or scenes in your story or you may want to leave some things out. If you complete this plot outline, though, it will give you somewhere to start your story and it will give your writing a sense of direction.

Usually, stories are about people overcoming problems. Often the problem gets worse before it gets better. Sometimes the person with the problem manages to overcome the problem by themselves. Very often, they get help from other people. To make your story interesting it’s a good idea to write about the problem early on in the story. Then your reader will want to know what happens next and how the story ends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who are the main characters? (use your character you profiled yesterday)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What problem do the main characters have? Maybe one character causes a problem which affects another one?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think of some possible way that the problem can get worse. (you don’t have to use them all).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is able to help? What can they do? Does your character need to ask for help or can they solve the problem by themselves?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is the problem eventually sorted out?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does the story end? Happily, tragically, with a cliffhanger...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Thursday 14th January**

**LO: To write a short story set in Reading**

Use today’s lesson to write the first half of your story. Remember to use precise vocabulary like we practiced in the lesson on Monday. Tick these features off as you use them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precise verbs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Powerful adjectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial phrases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialogue (speech)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Friday 15th January**

**LO: To write a short story set in Reading**

Use today’s lesson to write the second half of your story. Remember to use precise vocabulary like we practiced in the lesson on Monday. Tick these features off as you use them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precise verbs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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Reading Pack for Monday 11\textsuperscript{th} January – Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} January
Monday 11th January

LO: To identify the main ideas in a paragraph

A Royal Foundation

In 1121, King Henry I announced that he wanted to have a new abbey built at Reading. The Abbey would have a large and impressive church and living quarters for dozens of monks, who would worship in the church. No expense was spared in its construction. By medieval times, Reading was the site of a great royal Abbey – a religious community centred round a magnificent church - one of the largest monasteries in Europe.

He built this monastery between the rivers Kennet and Thames, in a place calculated for the reception of almost all who might have occasion to travel to the more populous cities of England.

William of Malmesbury

1. Which King decided to build a new Abbey in Reading?
2. What did he want the Abbey to be like?
3. What does ‘No expense spared’ mean?
4. Was the King’s plan for a ‘large and impressive church’ successful?
5. Can you rewrite the quote by William of Malmesbury in modern English?
King Henry I died before his Abbey was complete and was buried in 1136 in front of the high altar. The Abbey and the ground immediately outside became a desirable location for other royals and nobles to be buried.

Building work was still going on when the Abbey church was officially opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket, on 19 April 1164. The ceremony was attended by King Henry II (grandson of Henry I) and his noble followers. The opening ceremony dedicated the church to the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist.

The Abbey was the fourth largest church in Britain. It was such a large and ornate construction that building continued for almost 200 years after the original foundation in 1121. By this time the older parts of the Abbey would have been in need of repair!

Are the following statements true or false? Give an explanation for your answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Choose one:</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Henry I officially opened the Abbey.</td>
<td>True/False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The building work was complete when the Abbey was opened.</td>
<td>True/False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other members of the Royal family attend the opening ceremony.</td>
<td>True/False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey was one of the largest in Britain.</td>
<td>True/False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey became a popular place for other members of the royal family to be buried.</td>
<td>True/False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monks lived, worked and worshipped here for more than 400 years. Royal funerals and weddings and meetings of court and Parliament were held at the Abbey. Thousands of pilgrims visited to pray for a blessing or a cure. It was a site of international significance.

The Abbey owned the town of Reading and the Abbot was its lord. The Abbey developed the town laying out new streets and properties including present-day Broad Street, Friar Street, London Street and Market Place.

In 1539, over 400 years of monastic life at Reading Abbey suddenly came to an end. On the orders of King Henry VIII the Abbey was closed. Henry took the Abbey’s valuable possessions. The monks scattered. The abbot was executed.

The closure of Reading Abbey was not unique. Hundreds of abbeys were closed in England and Wales in the 1530s, as Henry declared himself as head of the church in England, and absorbed the wealth of the abbeys and priories into his own treasury. Historians call this closure the Dissolution.

1. What kind of activities took place at the Abbey?
2. Who owned the town of Reading?
3. Who decided that the Abbey must close?
4. What were the consequences of the closure for the people of Reading?
5. What impression of Henry VIII do you get from this account?
Thursday 14th January

LO: To summarise main ideas and to give opinions on a text.

The Gateway

The Abbey Gateway remained in use after the demolition of most of the other Abbey buildings. It was used as a school for many years. In 1861 the Gateway collapsed in strong winds; the Gate had to be substantially rebuilt. This work was completed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, a Victorian architect known for his Gothic Revival work. It was fully restored in 2017-2018.

The Gardens

In 1855, the Forbury (once the outer court of the Abbey) was acquired by the Council. It was then that the Forbury Gardens were laid out with formal flower beds, exotic trees and ornamental features re-using Abbey stones. Since the time of the Abbey, the Forbury has always been a space for the people of Reading. The Maiwand Lion in the Forbury Gardens is an iconic part of the town’s identity.

The Gaol (this word is now more commonly spelt jail)

The prison is a significant example of Victorian prison architecture. Oscar Wilde was famously imprisoned here between 1895 and 1897. His experiences led him to write The Ballad of Reading Gaol. The prison closed in September 2013.

The Abbey ruins were recently restored as a conservation site and reopened for visitors in 2018.

1. Which of these three spaces has always been in public use?
2. What happened to the Abbey Gateway in 1861?
3. Who was imprisoned in Reading Gaol?
4. Which of these places have you been to before and what were your impressions of them?
**Friday 15th January**

**LO: To gain an overview of a text**

Using the previous text for this week, order these events from earliest to most recent.

The whole text for the week is posted below the table for you to skim through if you need to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey Gateway was destroyed in a gale.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Henry I decided to build an Abbey in Reading.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monks were scattered and the Abbot was executed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey was reopened as a conservation site.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Archbishop of Canterbury opened Reading Abbey.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry VIII ordered the Abbey to be closed.</td>
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