

# English

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Today we will use a poem called 'Instructions' by Neil Gaiman to begin to explore the features of instruction sentences.



# Today's activities

**IMPORTANT!** Parent or Carer – Please read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.



This symbol shows optional challenges. You don't have to do these but you can if you want to and if you have the time.

## 1. SPaG Review

Let's begin reviewing what we know about different types of sentences and how we punctuate them.

## 2. Time to Listen!

Listen to Mrs Riley reading the first part of the poem 'Instructions' by Neil Gaiman. Talk to your grown up about it.

## 3. Command sentences

Read the learn screens to find out all about the features of command/ instruction sentences. You will then identify command/ instruction sentences in the poem

## 4. Let's Write

Find out more about bossy verbs and then write some command/ instruction sentences of your own.

# SPaG Review

## Activity 1: Punctuation

Think back to our work from yesterday to help you identify the types of sentences below.



### Your Task:

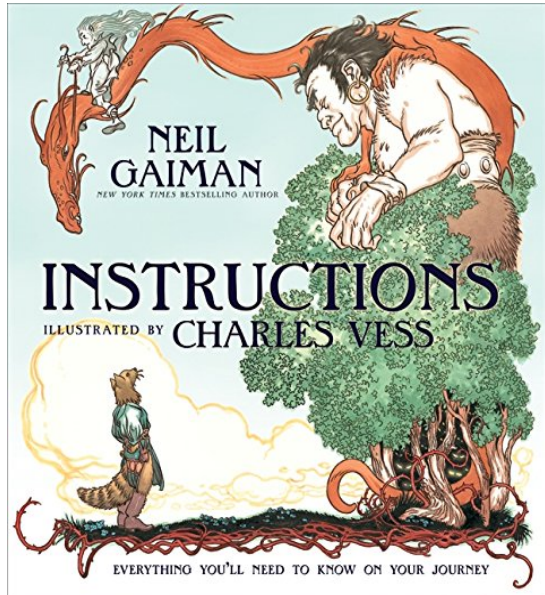
Identify whether each sentence is a statement, question, exclamation or command. Then add the correct punctuation mark

Here is my work  
What shall I do  
What a horrible thing to say  
What did you say  
Do not do that



# Learn Screen

## All about our Text



Our text today is a slightly unusual one. It's a poem that's filled magic and wonder. There are lots of links to fairy tales so look out for them as we read.

Neil Gaiman is an English writer who has written some fabulous stories and poems. He has written for Marvel comics and even wrote an episode of the T.V. series 'Dr. Who'.



# Let's Listen

## Activity 2: Listen to the poem

### Your Task

Listen to Mrs Riley reading the first part of the poem. There are some fabulous words in this poem and Mrs Riley explains some of them at the start of the video to help you. You can find the video by clicking on the link on our Remote Learning page.



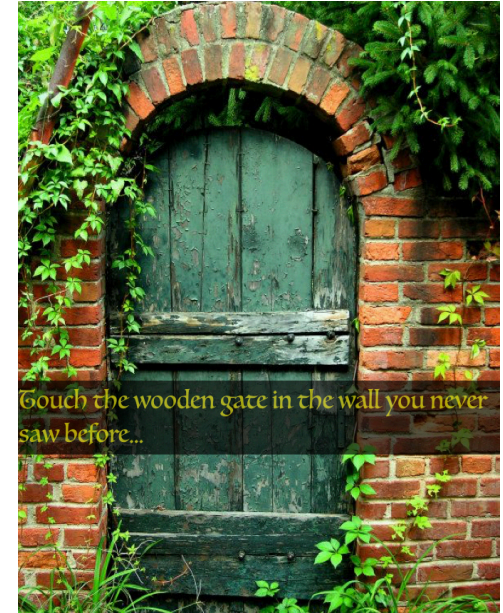
As you listen, think about why this poem is called 'Instructions'. Talk to your grown up about your ideas.

# Story Time

## Activity 2: Think about the poem

Did you spot that this poem is filled with lots of command sentences? Command sentences are found in instructions.

In this poem, Neil Gaiman gives us lots of instructions that guide a fairy tale cat (Puss) through an enchanted wood—into lush gardens, to a formidable castle, and finally over a perilous river—to find his way home again.



Did you like this poem? Talk to your grown up about your ideas.

# Learn Screen

## Features of instruction/ command sentences

Instructions are sentences that give a commands or orders. They are bossy and tell the reader what to do.

They are usually short, sharp sentences that do not contain much description or story language.

Open the gate. Go down the garden path.

They always contain bossy (imperative) verbs that tell someone what to do or not do. These verbs are always in the present tense.



Listen for the doorbell. Do not use the door knocker.

Let's look more closely at the features of command/ instruction sentences.

# Learn Screen

## Features of instruction sentences

They are addressed to the reader, as if the reader is being spoken to directly by someone.

Go into the wood. Watch out for the wolves



They often 'list' things to do or avoid doing.

Walk through the wood, jump over the wall  
and then climb into the tree

Often, although not in this poem, instruction sentences can be numbered or have bullet points.

1. Jump on board the ferry
2. Pay the ferryman
3. Stay sat down till you reach the far side of the river

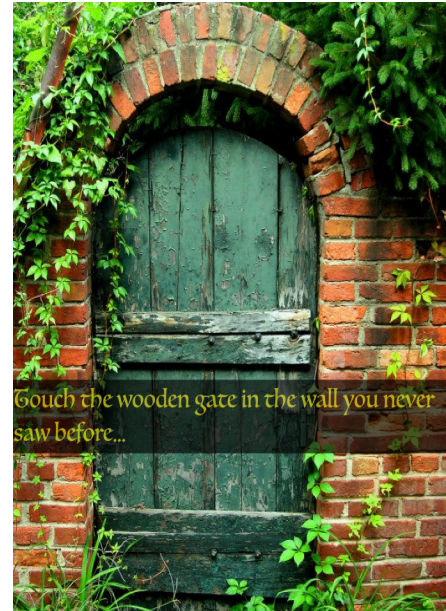


# Find the Commands

## Activity 3: Find the commands.

Have a look at the copy of the first part of poem in the PDF file on our Remote Learning page. How many command sentences can you spot? Highlight them. (The answers are in a separate PDF file.)

Look out for the features of instruction sentences you have just learned about. Talk to your grown up about them. **There's no need to write anything down.**



Choose your favourite line from the poem. Tell me about why you like it.

# Learn Screen

Where are the bossy verbs?

## What is an imperative verb?

- It is a bossy verb! It makes a sentence bossy! Use Miss Bossy to help you remember!
- It gives you an order or command.
- They are direct and sharp.
- E.g. Line up for assembly.
- Turn left at the traffic lights.
- Mix the flour and eggs together.



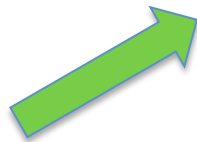
# Learn Screen

Where are the bossy verbs?



Did you notice that all the command sentences in this poem contain bossy (imperative) verbs – we looked at them yesterday.

Often the bossy verbs will be the start of the sentence. Read these lines and highlight all the bossy verbs.



Climb down into the well.  
Find the tunnel at the bottom.  
Crawl along it for five minutes.

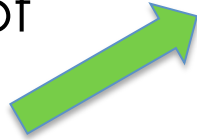
After a while, stop for a rest.  
What ever you do, do not shout.  
Very carefully, listen for the creaking of a trap door.

Move forward, open the trap door and whisper your name softly.  
A winter elf will open the door and wrap you up with scarves to keep you warm.

# Learn Screen

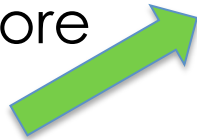
## Where are the bossy verbs?

Can you see that sometimes the bossy verb is at the start of the sentence.



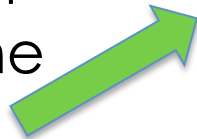
**Climb** down into the well.  
**Find** the tunnel at the bottom.  
**Crawl** along it for five minutes.

Sometimes, there is a word or phrase before the bossy verb.



After a while, **stop** for a rest.  
What ever you do, **do** not shout.  
Very carefully, **listen** for the creaking of a trap door.

Sometimes you can have more than one bossy verb in a sentence. This one has three!



**Move** forward, **open** the trap door and **whisper** your name softly.  
A winter elf will open the door and wrap you up with scarves to keep you warm

# Let's write

## Activity 4:

**Look at the picture on the next page.** This is where Puss meets the Twelve Months who are sitting around the fire. We are told that they are **warming their feet and exchanging tales.**

Remember that I said **exchange** is another word for **swap** and a **tale** is another way of saying **story**.

**Warming their feet** just means they have **put their feet close to the fire to warm them up.**

Neil Gaiman wants us to imagine that the months of the year are creatures who sit around a fire - with their legs stretched out to keep their toes warm -swapping stories!



This is Puss meeting the Twelve Months of the year who are sitting around a fire warming up their toes and swapping stories.

Throughout the poem, Puss has been given lots of instructions about what to do and say. I wonder what instructions you could give Puss about this moment in his journey?



In the clearing beyond the castle the twelve months sit about a fire, warming their feet, exchanging tales. They may do favors for you, if you are polite.

# Your Task

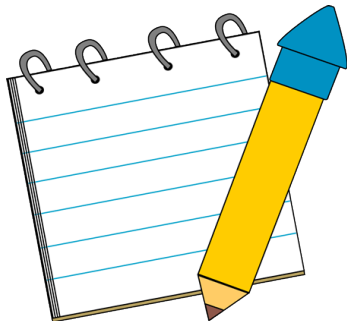
## Choose 5 months.

Write instructions to Puss about each of these 5 months of the year

### Example:

Tell January a joke to make him laugh.

Watch out for February, as she is a bit crafty and may try and trick you.



## My ideas:

Tell January not to sit too close to the fire.

Never share sweets with April as she will eat them all!

## Steps to success

Check each sentence is a command.

Spell the months' names correctly, starting each with a capital letter.

Use correct punctuation.

Use an exclamation mark for the strongest of your instructions.

What fabulous work you are doing Year 2.  
You are amazing.

you  
are  
amazing.



# SPaG Review

## Activity 1: Answers



### Your Task:

Identify whether each sentence is a statement, question, exclamation or command. Then add the correct punctuation mark

Here is my work. (Statement)

What shall I do? (Question)

What a horrible thing to say! (Exclamation)

What did you say? (Question)

Do not do that! (Command)

## ANSWERS

