

New Activity

Now we are going to do something that requires a bit of forethought and planning.

There are all kinds of surprises we might experience in life. Some surprises might give us a bit of a shock that isn't very nice, like when you fall over and hurt yourself, or you get hit by a ball in a game. Some surprises are created by others, as a joke, and we might laugh initially but then perhaps feel hurt or upset at being the butt of the joke. Practical jokes can be fun for onlookers, but they often require someone to unwittingly do a silly thing: the joke is at their expense and they can feel exposed or awkward. These are not the kinds of surprises we will be creating for this exercise.

What I want you to do now is take some time out in the garden, and while you are there, remember the qualities or feelings of surprise you wrote about yesterday (the list of words you created to describe how a surprise feels).

Once you have done this, and you feel like you have remembered really well what's important in a surprise, you can come inside if you want to. Now you are going to ruminate over (think deeply about) a surprise that you can create for at least one person in your family that will leave that person feeling some of the words on your list. Your focus needs to be on how *they* will feel on the receiving end of whatever surprise you create. Hopefully your list includes feelings like awe, excitement, amazement... and in the process, you want your person to feel treasured by you.

You need to be sensitive as to how your surprise will feel for the other person. Try and put yourself in their shoes – would you appreciate the surprise and see it as considerate? You *do* want to SURPRISE them though, so what you do need to have is some quality of the unexpected... If you think they will take a quick breath in, then laugh and be grateful, that's a good sign!

Alright – now you have some serious planning to do. Take notes in your draft book. You need to think about:

- What will the surprise be?
- What do you need in order to create the surprise?
- Do you need to work with someone else in your family to pull it off? (If you plan to use a stove or anything slightly tricky, ask permission from an adult.)
- When is the best time to execute the surprise?
- What are the steps in getting ready and when should you do these?

If you are having a tricky time thinking of something, some suggestions are:

- Press some flowers and make a card
- Pick a bunch of flowers for someone
- Sing someone a song
- Recite a poem to someone

Creative Writing Main Lesson

Week 8, Thursday 10th September

- Lush-up the couch for someone - create a warm room with lamps, books, a cup of tea and biccies
- Craft something – a little drawstring bag, a crocheted or knitted dishcloth, weave a small basket
- Do a drawing for someone
- Get up early and clean the kitchen
- Bring someone afternoon tea on a tray with flowers
- Create a games night – you could host charades.
- Thinking about how you will ‘deliver’ your surprise will help make it more surprising. Leaving a card on someone’s pillow is more of a surprise than handing it to them...

Once you have thought all of this through, decide on a time and place and work towards this goal. Then make your surprise happen! Good luck!