

# Pick a Purpose Writing *Voices from the Ship:*

HMS PICKLE  
LESSON 3  
P5



BERMUDA  
EDUCATION  
NETWORK



Hi friends!!!  
My name is  
**Fred**

- I will pop up throughout our learning journey as we discover new things....
- I have seen the word "Purpose" - can anyone share what this word means?
- Let's add it to our physical Word Wall in the classroom so we can see our new vocabulary grow.
- As we keep learning, we'll add words with definitions, pictures, or examples. Our Word Wall will be a space we can look back on to support our talking and writing.



# Voices from the Ship: Pick a Purpose



Today we are going to learn how to write about HMS Pickle in different ways. We will focus on *how* we write the information, *what layout* we use, and *who our reader is*.

Remember the HMS Pickle was a small Bermuda-built sloop, but it played a very big role in history. After the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Admiral Nelson's most famous victory. Pickle was the ship chosen to carry the news all the way back to England. This ship raced across the Atlantic to deliver the message that Britain had won. Without HMS Pickle, the people in London might not have known about the victory for weeks!

For Bermuda, this was important too. Bermuda is a *maritime* nation — that means life on the island is closely linked to the sea, with sailors, shipbuilders, and fishing. Because Bermuda built fast, strong ships like Pickle, the island gained recognition and pride for its sailors and shipbuilders.

# Today we are learning...



## WALT (We Are Learning To...)

- Understand the key differences between recounts, diaries, and letters.
- Recognise the features that make each genre unique (e.g., order of events, first person, feelings, audience).
- Apply these features when creating our own sailor text.

## Success Criteria

- I can identify the genre of a text and explain how I know.
- I can use the correct features of my chosen style (e.g., Dear Diary, greeting, time words, feelings).
- I can extend or complete a sentence so that it matches the text type.
- I can write my own sailor text (diary, letter, or recount) in my Learning Journal, showing the correct style.

**WALT**  
We are Learning to...

**SUCCESS**  
**CRITERIA**

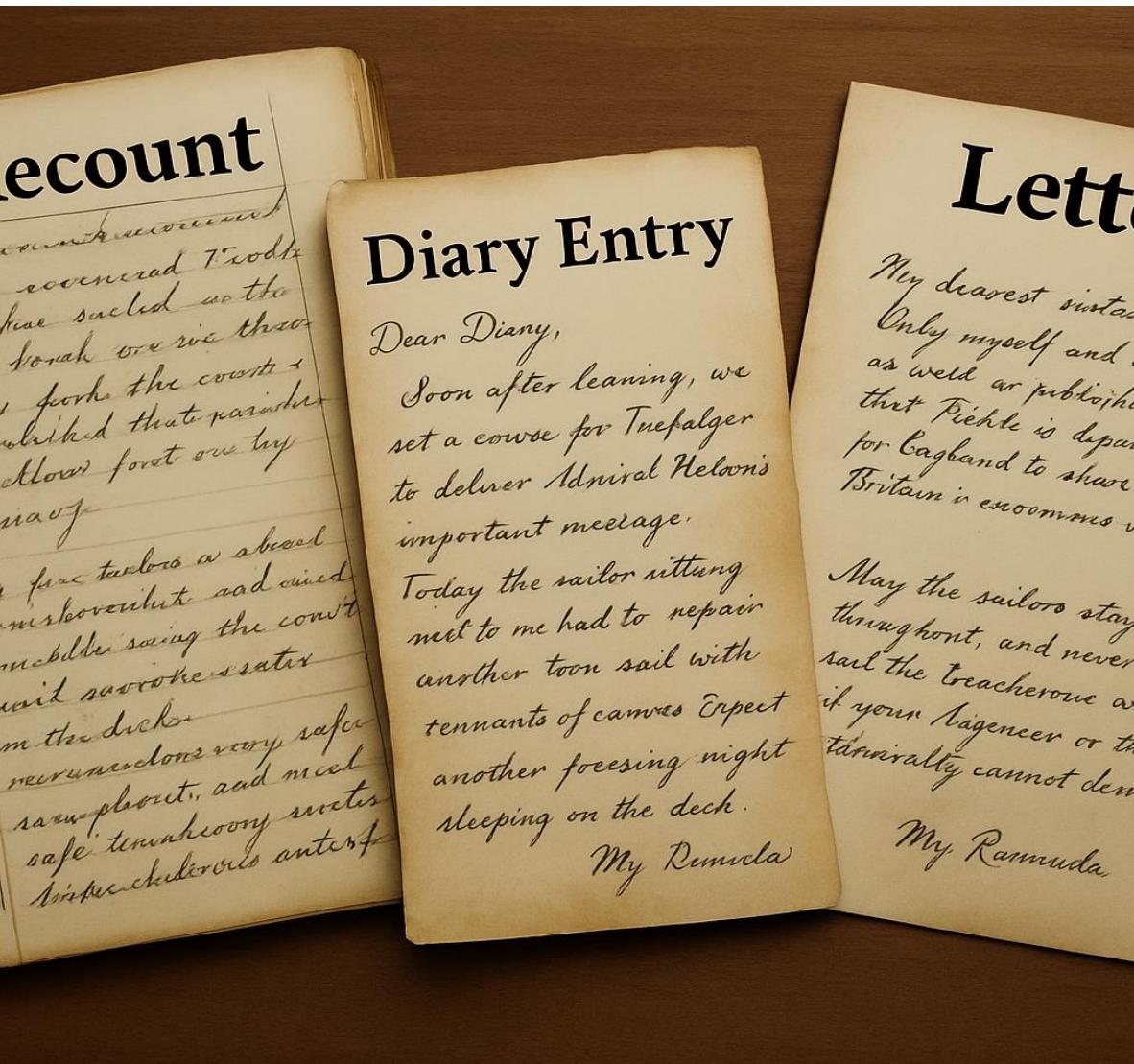
# For this lesson we need

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- Whiteboards and markers
- Pencils
- A learning journal - a copy to keep all our wonderful writing in one place!



# Think/Pair/Share



Let's discuss the types of writing Sailors kept. Some Sailors devoted private leisure time to personal diaries, wrote letters to loved ones and wrote factual recounts of their journey.

Turn to your partner and discuss:

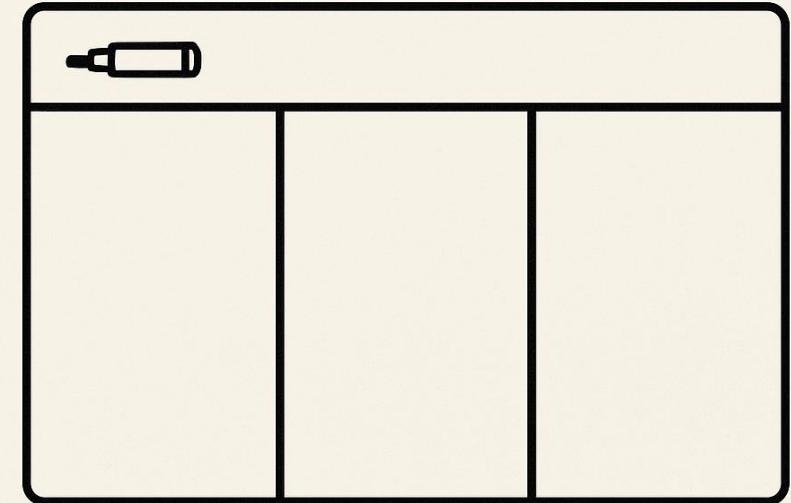
- Why do you think sailors needed to keep a factual recount or diary? What is the difference?
- If you were a sailor, which kind of writing would you enjoy most – diary writing, letters, or factual reports? Why?
- What kind of writing would be most useful to the captain?
- What kind of writing would be most useful to the sailor's family?
- Which kind of writing do you think sailors would find boring or more interesting to write?
- Which kind of writing might make sailors feel proud or important?
- Which kind of writing would you find hardest? Why?

## Group work: How do Factual Recounts, Diaries, and Letters look different?

- We are going to do some group work now.  
Each group will use a whiteboard and divide it into three columns.
- We are focusing on the three genres of writing:
  1. Diary Entry
  2. Letter
  3. Factual Recount
- In each column, write down the **techniques and features** for that type of writing. Think about:
  - How is it structured?
  - What makes it different from the other two?
  - **💡 Remember:** All three tell a story, but they sound different depending on **who is writing** and **who is reading**.

Look at the next two slides for this.

Each group will use a whiteboard and divide it into three columns.





# How do Factual Recounts, Diaries, and Letters look different?

💡 Remember: All three tell a story, but they sound different depending on who is writing and who is reading!

## Informal Letter Example

Lock's House  
Forest Road  
Storyland  
GO1 DEE

29<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Dear Bears,

Thank you so much for letting me stay at your house recently. I had a wonderful time and you were very kind to me. However, I am sorry that I ate Little Bear's porridge, broke his chair and fell asleep in his bed. I didn't mean to make him upset and cry. I hope he is feeling better about things now. I would love to come and stay with you again soon.

Best wishes,

Goldilocks

Monday, 2nd September – 8:00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Today was my very first day of school! I felt nervous this morning, my tummy was all wobbly, but excited too. Mum helped me into my new uniform, and off we went.

The playground was noisy and full of children. I held onto Mum's hand until Mrs. Kelly, my teacher, welcomed me with a big smile. That made me feel braver.

Inside, the classroom was bright and colourful. I sat beside Sam, and we built a block tower together—It fell down, and we both laughed—it felt like the start of a new friendship.

I made a few mistakes, like forgetting where to hang my coat, but Mrs. Kelly said not to worry.

Goodnight, Diary.  
Love, Emma



# How do Factual Recounts, Diaries, and Letters look different?

## Recount of the Voyage

22nd July, 1796

We departed Port Royal, Jamaica, on the 10th of July, 1796, with a cargo of sugar and spices bound for Barbados. The weather at departure was calm, and the ship made steady progress eastward.

From the 10th to the 13th, conditions remained favourable. On the 14th of July, we encountered a heavy storm near Hispaniola. Strong winds and heavy rain required the crew to reef the sails. Some water entered the lower deck, but no damage was sustained, and the ship remained sound.

Following the storm, the weather cleared, and sailing was steady. Marine life, including dolphins and flying fish, was observed alongside the vessel. Provisions were checked daily and remained sufficient.

On the 19th of July, the ship anchored briefly off St. Lucia to replenish fresh water supplies. Departure was prompt, and by the 21st of July, the coastline of Barbados was sighted.

💡 Remember: All three tell a story, but they sound different depending on **who is writing** and **who is reading!**

**FREEZE** - have you spotted any new vocabulary when reading these texts!

Let's add it to our word wall....



# Sorting Challenge: Spot It & Finish It

## Factual Recount writing, Letter or Diary entry.

In Pairs - Use Your Learning Journal

1. Decide the type of text: Is it a Recount, a Diary Entry, or a Letter?

2. Copy the starter sentence into your journal.

3. Add one more sentence to carry on what the sailor was saying. Make sure your sentence matches the style!

-  Tip: Remember...

- Recount = events in order.

- Diary = feelings in first person.

- Letter = written to someone.



1. "On October 22nd, HMS Pickle set sail from Trafalgar with Nelson's news..."

 Challenge: Add the next event in order. What happened next?

Sentence stem: "Then the crew..."

2. "Dear Diary, today I felt proud as the sails filled with wind..."

 Challenge: Add a feeling or thought in the first person.

Sentence stem: "I also felt \_\_\_\_\_ because..."

3. "Dear Mother, I hope you are all well at home."

 Challenge: Add a detail to share with someone at home.

Sentence stem: "I want to tell you about \_\_\_\_\_."

# Independent Writing (DEAR) Drop Everything and Record

Imagine you are a sailor on HMS Pickle after the Battle of Trafalgar. Choose one style to write in

- Diary Entry 📝
- Letter Home 📨
- Factual Recount 🕒 \*



Write in your chosen genre of writing.

- **Remember While You Write!**
- **Diary Entry** → Start with date and time, "Dear Diary", use I / me, and share feelings, write in past tense "I saw".
- **Informal Letter Home** → Greeting, address, date at the top, chatty opening, personal tone, first person (I, me, my), sharing news or events, including feelings or opinions, asking questions, simple friendly sentences, closing line (From, Yours, Love), signature.
- **Factual Recount** → Tell events in order, use **past tense**, and stick to **facts**.

## Juicy Sentence Starters

### **Diary Entry Starters**

- Monday, 21st October 1805 - Dear Diary, today I...
- I can hardly believe what I saw when...
- My hands are still shaking because...
- The sea was wild, and I felt...
- I will never forget the moment when...
- I tried to be brave, but inside I...



### **Letter Home Starters**

- 21st October 1805 - Dearest Mother/Father,
- You would not believe the things I have seen...
- I hope this letter finds you well. I must tell you about..
- Life aboard the *Pickle* has been...
- The Battle of Trafalgar was fierce, and I felt...
- Please tell everyone at home that...
- I cannot wait to be back so that I can...

### **Factual Recount Starters**

- On 21st October 1805, HMS *Pickle* was sent to...
- First, the ships moved into position...
- Then, the battle began when...
- After that, I observed that...
- Finally, HMS *Pickle* was ordered to...

# Spelling station

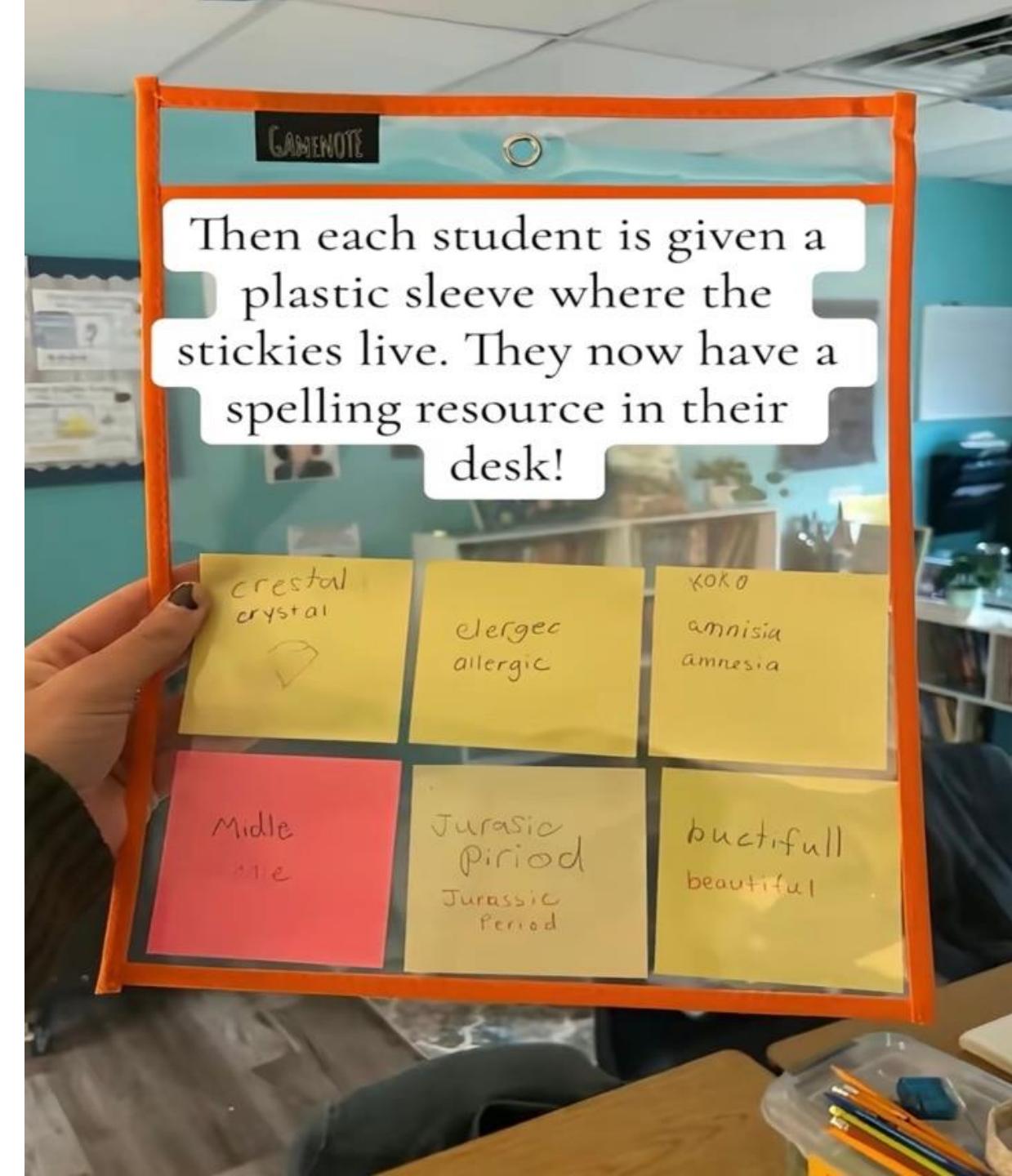
## Look back at your writing...

💡 Get a sticky note - write one word you are unsure of how to spell it from your recount writing.

💬 Try and sound out the word as best as you can and write it down. Turn to your friend and ask them do they know how to spell it.

👩‍🏫 Teacher will come around and check the word and either it is right, or I will write the correct spelling on it for you.

📝 Add your new word to your personal spelling sleeve or to a page in your journal.



# Peer Swap: Writing Genre Detectives

Swap your writing with your partner.

- Read it carefully - is it a **Diary** 📖, a **Letter** 📧, or a **Recount** 🕒?
- Be a **Genre Writing Detective**: underline one clue that helped you decide (a greeting, a feeling word, or a time word).

**Give feedback:**

-  **One Star** = one thing they did really well.
-  **One Wish** = one way they could improve (e.g. add more detail, use past tense, include feelings).
- **Hand it back** and share your star & wish with your partner.



# Did we learn these things? Thumbs up/down

-  **Reflection** - Did I...
  - Did I understand the key differences between recounts, diaries, and letters?
  - Did I recognise the features that make each genre unique (order of events, first person, feelings, audience)?
  - Did I apply these features when creating my own sailor text?
-  **Success Criteria** - Did I...
  - Did I identify the genre of a text and explain how I knew?
  - Did I use the correct features of my chosen style (e.g., Dear Diary, greeting, time words, feelings)?
  - Did I extend or complete a sentence so that it matched the text type?
  - Did I write my own sailor text (diary, letter, or recount) in my Learning Journal, showing the correct style?





## End of Lesson Actions

- Tidy up journals and return them to the basket
  - Push in your chair and get ready for the next activity



Movement Break: Copy and Paste this Link into YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY6ZwKAM\\_8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY6ZwKAM_8o)