

A night on the streets

TASK: To draft a detailed description of how it must feel to spend one night sleeping rough on the streets of London.

AIMS: To create a real feeling of what it must be like to sleep on the streets. To describe sounds, feelings and things you can see and touch (make use of the five senses).

TIPS: Try and put yourself into the situation of someone who has been made homeless.

1. This is called **empathy** (when you imagine how someone else must be feeling).
2. Write in the **first person** (using an 'I' viewpoint as opposed to a 'he'/'she' one).
3. Include as much detail as you can to make your writing **interesting, vivid and realistic**.

Paragraph 1:

Describe how you arrive in London and how you are feeling before your first night on the street.

Make sure your writing includes answers to the following:

- where do you find a spot to sleep?
- what kind of place is it?
- how badly is the cold affecting you?
- can you get to sleep?
- are you scared for your safety?

Paragraph 2:

Describe the middle of the night.

Make sure your writing includes answers to the following:

- do you manage to fall asleep?
- do you get disturbed by anyone or anything?
- how are you coping with your feelings of loneliness?
- why do you feel so unhappy?
- what is the most difficult aspect of sleeping rough / what do you miss most of all?

Paragraph 3:

Describe waking up the following morning.

Make sure your writing includes answers to the following:

- what can you hear?
- what can you see?
- what can you smell?
- how do you feel after a night sleeping rough?
- will you be able to bear another night on the street tonight?
- what do you think will happen to you from this day onwards?