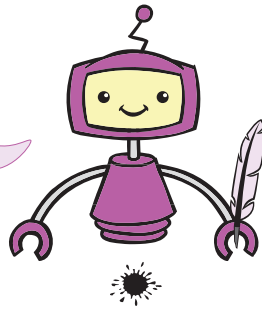


Stranger in a strange land

Have you ever travelled to faraway places, either in reality or in your imagination? Travel, they say, broadens the mind. Well, my mind is pretty broad! Let's find out how broad and active your mind is by exercising your travel-writing skills ...



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 14

Learning Object 4: *A new camp brochure*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 3

Module 14 Work Sheet 3: *Into the wild*

1 Inside, outside, upside down

In Work Sheet 3, *Into the wild*, you read and responded to a piece of travel writing. Now it is your turn to exercise your travel-writing skills.

Don't worry if you have never travelled anywhere, you can always use your imagination to travel as far as the furthest reaches of the universe. And beyond!

Oh, the places I have seen _____

Travel writing is a particular form of writing about place. It often features descriptions of the landscape, culture and people of a particular country or area.

As you learnt in Work Sheet 3, travel writing is usually written from the point of view of a curious outsider. The place they are writing about is unfamiliar, even exotic to them.

In hindsight, some very early travel writing can seem odd — some of it includes accounts of fabulous creatures and landscapes. For example, did you know that in travel literature from the time of Alexander the Great (c.356–323 BC), writers claimed that they had encountered a creature called the Donestre?

The Donestre had the head of a lion and the body of a man. It could speak every language that had ever been spoken, but it was lonely. Whenever it spied a potential companion, it spoke to the traveller in their native tongue, luring them close. When they had

dined together, the Donestre would then eat its new friend, though it would be reduced to tears of regret afterwards!

In the late 20th century, many people were critical of early travel writers, even some contemporary ones, accusing many of them of writing about 'other' people, places and civilisations as though they were inferior, simply because they were different.

Of course, we now realise that much early travel writing was quite fanciful and misleading!

At other times, particular travel writers have been criticised for getting things wrong, particularly from the point of view of people living in the place the travel writer has visited and written about.

So much to consider! But for now, let's have a look at some of the features of travel writing most people do agree on!

- It is usually written in the first person.
- It is usually written from the perspective of an 'outsider', such as a tourist or an explorer.
- It is usually written for readers who are unfamiliar with the place that is being described.
- It can feature discussions of various aspects of place, such as landscape, people, events and objects.

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- It is usually written in the past tense.
- It is often accompanied by illustrations such as maps, photographs or drawings.
- It aims to create a vivid sense of the place being described by appealing to each of the five senses.

Exercises

Exercise 1

Preparation

In this work sheet, you will develop and then write your own short piece of travel writing, in Indonesian. Start your planning in English. You can either write about a real place to which you have travelled, or by using your imagination to travel to either a real, or imagined, destination that appeals to you.

The first step is to think about the various aspects of the place you are going to write about.

What is your destination?

Use the squares below to note some ideas about your destination. There is one block for each of your senses: *Yang bisa dilihat*, *Yang bisa didengar*, *Yang bisa dirasakan*, *Yang bisa diraba* and *Yang bisa dicium*.

1. Yang bisa dilihat

2. Yang bisa didengar

3. Yang bisa dirasakan

4. Yang bisa diraba

5. Yang bisa dicium

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Exercise 2

Planning

Now that you have thought about some ideas, you are ready to begin planning your piece of travel writing.

Sketch out a brief plan for your piece of travel writing. Write your plan in Indonesian, or as much of it as you can.

In each paragraph, write some notes about how you will introduce the reader to a different aspect of the place you are writing about. You will need to come up with four key experiences, memories, or actions you engaged in, to create a story frame through which to reveal sensory details about your destination.

Paragraph 1 _____

Paragraph 2 _____

Paragraph 3 _____

Paragraph 4 _____

Paragraph 5

Exercise 3

Writing

How awesome! You have a wonderful destination, and a great plan for your story. Now it is time to turn all that creative planning into a dynamic and engaging piece of writing.

In Indonesian, use your plan to write a brief narrative (about 300 words) that reveals to the reader some aspects of your destination. Your piece of writing can either be a complete micro-story, or the opening section of a longer work, such as a novel. This is an extended piece of writing.

Do not be afraid to add new ideas, or to go back to your original ideas as you write. And do not feel you need to include every detail you have come up with in your final draft. Often, in creative writing, what you leave out is as important as what you put in!
