Communications 11 Name:

**Descriptive Paragraph**

A descriptive paragraph describes a person, place or thing. For this paragraph, you will choose a **PLACE** and will write a properly structured, well-developed, detailed paragraph with lots of description and vivid words.

**Questions to ponder: (Think of your 5 senses!)**

Where is it located? What colours do I see? What odours do I smell? What do I hear? What items can I see? What do I feel like being in this place?

**Specifics:**

* At least 8 complete sentences of varying length
* Use at least one of the following literary devices: **metaphor**, **simile**, or **onomatopoeia**.

**Descriptive Paragraph Criteria**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraph Structure**  Indentation, capitalization, topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence (8 marks) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Description/Word choice**  Vivid words that create an image for the reader; uses adjectives and adverbs that suit the topic. “Shows” instead of “tells” (8 marks) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Organization**  Thoughts and ideas are organized in a logical manner; the reader can easily follow along (4 marks) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Sentence fluency**  There is a rhythm and flow to the paragraph; use of varying sentence structure and lengths; good use of transitions (4 marks) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Conventions**  Few errors in grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling (4 marks) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Total = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

**Sample Descriptive Paragraph**

**The Laundromat**

The windows at either end of the laundry room were open, but no breeze washed through to carry off the stale odors of fabric softener, detergent, and bleach. In the small ponds of soapy water that stained the concrete floor were stray balls of multicolored lint and fuzz. Along the left wall of the room stood ten rasping dryers, their round windows offering glimpses of jumping socks and underwear. Down the centre of the room were a dozen washing machines, set back to back in two rows. Some were chugging like steamboats; others were whining and whistling and dribbling suds. Two stood forlorn and empty, their lids flung open, with crudely drawn signs that said "Broke!" A long shelf partially covered in blue paper ran the length of the wall, interrupted only by a locked door. Alone, at the far end of the shelf, sat one empty laundry basket and an open box of Tide. Above the shelf at the other end was a small bulletin board decorated with yellowed business cards and torn slips of paper: scrawled requests for rides, reward offers for lost dogs, and phone numbers without names or explanations. On and on the machines hummed and wheezed, gurgled and gushed, washed, rinsed, and spun.