

# Suggested Tasks (or create your own)

In the gaol Hannah Pierson meets a woman who can write, and she asks her to write a letter home to her mother, explaining what really happened. Does the woman write what Hannah tells her?

Write a play of the court scene. Decide if Hannah goes free or not.

**Write a story that begins with the court verdict and use flashback to tell us what really happened.**

Write a ballad of the tragedy of Hannah Pierson, who dies in gaol of a broken heart after the man she loves turns against her.

For your first draft, try 'free writing' – which means you start writing and don't take your pen off the page for at least fifteen minutes. This is a rough first draft and you do not need to worry about spelling or punctuation. The urge to tell the story will be strong and you need to give in to it. There will be time to get it perfect in the second draft. If you get stuck, introduce a new character, turn a corner in the street, or open a door, something will come to you. Keep asking yourself this question: what if?

# Next steps

Carry on writing to the end of the first draft of your story and then go back over it, checking your spelling and punctuation. Reading your work out loud will also help you know where the punctuation should go.



After the first draft, you may only have a beginning. If you read it out to the class, or in a small group, ask what they think might happen next. This will help you, either because you agree with them or because you don't, and it will make it clearer to you how you want your story to go.

In your second draft, you are getting your work ready for a reader, so make sure your meanings are clear. This is why spelling and punctuation are important at this stage.



Using archive material can give you ideas for stories that are unique and unexpected. When you come across an interesting idea just remember: character, plot, setting and form – then you can take the story anywhere you



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