

## My Place

**Approach:** Independent

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Resources:** Video showing a wide range of residential housing.

Day 1 and 2: pencil (YEAR 4), blue pen (YEAR 8); day 3: dictionary and red pen.

### Questions/instructions

In this activity you are going to plan and write. You will be doing it over three days. Today, after watching a short video, you will have a few minutes to think about what you might write, and to jot down your ideas. On the second day you will have time to write, and on the third day you will have some time to check your work and make any changes that you want. I will give you a booklet for writing in. Each day I will collect it back in, then give it back out the next time you come.

#### DAY 1 INSTRUCTIONS

5 MINUTES

Today I want you to plan and think about what you will be writing. We'll start by watching a video which will help you to get started. It shows places that are special to some people, and should help you to start thinking about places that are special to you. Your writing is going to be about your place.

#### Show video

Remember, your writing is to be about your place — somewhere that is special for you — and it should be true, not make believe. On the first page of your booklet, **make a list of some of the ideas** that you might write about. But don't start writing the piece today. You have 5 minutes to plan and think about your ideas.

#### Hand out booklet and pencil. Allow 5 minutes.

#### DAY 2 INSTRUCTIONS

20 MINUTES

Yesterday you started to think about what you will be writing. It's about a place that is special for you. I'm going to give you your booklets and today you will have time to do your writing. You will have 20 minutes. Try to use all of that time for writing. I will let you know when you have used half of the time, and when you have 5 minutes left. If you don't know how to spell some words you need, try to spell them as best you can without asking me or someone else. **Use a pencil / blue pen today.** Remember, what you write about should be true, not make-believe.

#### Hand out student booklet, pencil/pen. Tell students when 10 minutes then 5 minutes remains.

#### DAY 3 INSTRUCTIONS

10 MINUTES

Yesterday you did some writing. Today you can check it and make any changes or improvements that you would like. **Only use a RED pen today.** Do not use a rubber. If you want, you can also use a dictionary. You have 10 minutes for doing this.

#### Hand out student booklet, red pen and dictionary. Allow 10 minutes.

		% responses	
		y4	y8
<b>Vividness:</b>	<i>use of language, imagery</i>		
	extremely rich and vivid	0	4
	good vivid description	5	13
	some elements well described	29	40
	no/very little vivid description	66	43
<b>Relevance:</b>	<i>how much on the place</i>		
	majority	49	60
	about half	21	20
	some	15	11
	very little or none	15	9
<b>Detail:</b>	very detailed and clear	3	11
	quite detailed	22	37
	some elements detailed	49	35
	lack in detail, unclear	26	17
<b>Communicating personal feeling:</b>			
	very high	2	13
	quite high	16	31
	some	42	34
	very little	40	22
<b>EXTENT AND TYPE OF EDITING</b>			
<b>Extending (at end):</b>	substantial	2	2
	slight	6	8
	none	92	90
<b>Inserting (in middle):</b>	substantial	0	2
	slight	6	14
	none	94	84
<b>Reorganising:</b>	substantial	0	0
	slight	0	2
	none	100	98
<b>Deleting:</b>	substantial	0	1
	slight	4	10
	none	96	89
<b>Punctuation:</b>	substantial	3	8
	slight	29	48
	none	68	44
<b>Paragraphing:</b>	substantial	0	1
	slight	0	1
	none	100	98

### Commentary

This task, involving three phases spread over three days, was intended to follow recommended teaching practices, as far as time limits allowed. Most students managed a relevant piece of writing, with about 25 percent more year 8 students than year 4 students gaining high scores for vividness, detail and communication of personal feeling. With no teacher feedback, comparatively little editing was done, except for punctuation. Spelling was not marked for this task, but attention to spelling paralleled attention to punctuation.

**HIGH RANGE**

The navy blue water sparkling in the dying mango coloured sunlight, the quite smooth crashing sound of the shore braking waves. The scenery is magnificent, something you would only find at my favourite place which if you haven't already figured out is the beach. My favourite place is the beach because it's somewhere that is still 100% natural, and unpredictable, the best time to be at the beach, I think, is just before the sun sets, because the view is spectacular, the half sun, setting across the shiny blue ocean is something short of a miracle, and to be out surfing with that virtually right beside you is awesome. Another reason I like the beach so much is because it has waves that you can surf. IF you have never tried surfing before at nighttime when it is dark it is a real rush and is something you have to try because it is something you will never forgett, just the feeling of movement in pitch black darkness is undiscrivable. Because you can't control yourself in the dark you have to put you trust into the massive tons of water that is powering you, hoping that it will be forgiving and not lead you directly into a reef or into a dangerous rip.

The perfect wave is out there somewhere and the best place to go looking for it usually is on top of a reef, because when the swell goes from deep to shallow really quickly it causes the wave to brake which if added with the right wind creates a perfect wave, the barrel in a decint wave is a 2 feet wide and the drop isn't that steep. Surfing at the beach is really magnificent but its something that would differ from person to person but the beach to me is something that would be dicribed as a piece of artwork and to me the beach shouldn't be taken for granted, but looked after, because if we don't it woiat be around for much longer. In conclusion the beach is my special place because its special to me in a way that would be unexsplainable except in my own mind.

(YEAR 8)

**MY SPECIAL PLACE!**

I don't think I can really call it my place, because it doesn't belong to me. It doesn't belong to anyone. It's just there. It's a little apple orchard with only about 3 trees, and the apples that grow there are the most delicious apples you can find. To anyone else, it wouldn't come across as being special in any way. It's quite plain really. It's the way it makes me feel when I'm there that makes it special. It's so quiet I can almost hear myself thinking. I go there when I just need some time to myself. I'm not about to tell you what I think about when I'm there, but I can tell you how I feel. I feel

content, like I'm the happiest person in the world, and no one can take that away from me because it's mine. Do you ever get the feeling that when you're around other people, even your closest friends, that you're playing a part that has been given to you, and not always being yourself around them? I know I do. And how people have these high expectations of you. I know I'm expected to get into the Canterbury team again next year, and to get 100% in my shooting in each game simply because I've done it before. Well, I don't have to worry about that when I'm in my apple orchard. I don't feel I need to be anyone but me when I'm there. And I know that apples can't talk or anything, but boy do the make good listeners. Except I'm not saying it. I'm thinking it. Strange as it may sound, I feel as though they understand me, and except me for who and what I am. Not who I could and should be. I myself find it quite strange that my favourite place isn't Fiji or Australia, but I haven't spent enough time there to find a special place, or to find a place that compares to my apple orchard. I may never find one as special as that, and the sad thing is that we'll be moving away from it in about a month! One thing that surprises me, is that I don't ever get bored there. It's not an interesting place, it's quite the opposite, but it's my place that's not mine. If that makes any sense. And you know what they say, ' you can take the girl out of the orchard, but you can't take the orchard out of the girl'!!!! The apple orchard will always be with me no matter where I am. In 30 years time when I pick up an apple, I'll probably remember all those long hours I spent there. (YEAR 8)

**MID RANGE**

My place is my Marae because it is very special and I belong to it. It is called Turangawaewae and it is in Ngaruawahia (just out side of Hamilton.) One of the reasons it is special to me is because the Maori queen stays there some times. She has a house there and its pretty flash on the outside; I have never actually been in it. The marae is a place were people have Tangi and hold birthdays. It is a people sort of place. when I go up to stay with my Nan I some times go down to the Marae or to the bank of the Waikato river. Every year (I think, I'm not sure) but the Iwi holds a regatta in which people race boats and waka on the Waikato river and people have fun.

My nan used to work at the marae on coronations and that was cool! The carvings are neat on the marae and people say that if you take the paua eyes on a carving you get cursed! I've had lots of

cool, cool times on my marae and its a place where I can just chill out and play with my cousins and generally have a good time. Lots of people come to my Marae and when Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa was here in N.Z he went to Turanghawaewae and planted a tree, I think that was highlight of the year for a lot of people who met him. Turangawaewae is, I think the best place in the world and it is very special to me. (YEAR 8)

My house is made of brick. There are flowers beside it. There are recycle bin near the flowers. Inside my house, there are rugs all over the ground except for kitchen. You walk straight and you could see my dad's room, my room and the computer room. Beside the computer room there are the bath room and the toilet. Then you walk left and there's the hall. Then you can see our kitchen. In the garden, there are apple tree some rose and a lemon tree. There is a chair and a table out there. I usually read books and do homework there. In my house there is a keyboard. (YEAR 4)

#### MY PLACE.

My most special place is my home. I like my home very much because its where I live and hang around the most. I like it because theres big space's of where we can play. It's good because you cant build much when you live in town and its all very stuffy and you cant do much, where as if you look at where we live we can do anything or build anything we want to. I like it in summer because when our cousin's come around we can stay up for ages playing games in the dark because you cant really do that in town. It's also quite big so we can have heaps of people stay over which is good. Plus theres neighbours that are relations. So you can do things without a hassel. But in winter its good because we have got heaps of trees so we can use them for firewood. But what I like about it is that i've got heaps of Photo's of me hanging on the wall from when my nan used to live there because I was her favourite granchild. Well thats really all I have to say. about my special place. (YEAR 8)

#### My place

I like my house it has a short drive way, a two car garage one car outside. My house is creamy white, it has a brown roof. It is tall and long. We have three cars. Out the back there is a big tree and some garden, we have short grass as well.

We have a conservatory if you go thought the

conservatory your will come outside there is a little bit of concrete the concrete is in little squares on the concrete there is a picnic table. Futher out there is a tramp our tramp has pads

A few weeks ago my dad made a decking out side near the lounge he is going to put a door coming out of the window so you can go on the decking through the lounge and one more door near the living room.

Some times in the day we get no sun but when we do it shines on my room and my sisters stacey. On the tree there is always birds on it. there is about 25 each day. My cat tries to get the birds.

We also have a garden sed we have all of our bikes, spades, hamers and sports gear in there plus plant gear and slug killer and weed killer. We have a basketball hoop on the garden sed side and one basketball hoop inside and another hoop outside. (YEAR 4)

#### WAIMARAMA

Waimarama is the best place for me because it's where I believe where I am from. I have a lot of cousins who live there. My grand parents were buried there. Their names are Pat and Edgar Gillies. They were buried together because they wanted to be. There is a street called Gillies Cres which was named after my family. We have a lot of land in Waimarama. I use to live right next to the beach so, when it was the school holiday's I spent it at the beach. I love swimming in Waimarama. There is a little island there called Motu o kura. It was named after a young woman who, swam from the shore to the island. Some people call the island Bare island because on one side there is nothing there but, on the other there is seals, trees and grass. One day my uncles and I went went on the island to go diving. It was really scary because we have two great big sting rays who look after the seafood and the island. When ever people go out diving they will always be watched by the sting rays. If you take more seafood than what you're supposed to you will get attacked. Some people think that it's a fair tale but it isn't. In Waimarama my best friend Jodene has a horse track for tourists' to ride on. It's very long, awesome and neat. I love it so much.

Waimarama is in Hawkes Bay. It's near Havelock North. During the summer heaps of people come to Waimarama to surf. One day I am going to live back in Waimarama. This is the reason why I like this place.

Waimarama is only a small place. There is heaps of beautiful houses. We only have one dairy there, and a liqueur store. We also have a fish and chip shop. (YEAR 8)