

Graphic Classics

Worksheet 4

The Happy Prince

Same Story, Different Genres

‘The Happy Prince’ was written by Oscar Wilde in 1888 when conditions for the poor were very harsh. The author was writing of things that he had witnessed in the streets of London so his writing is very powerful. When ‘The Happy Prince’ was first published it was a short story without illustration. You have read ‘The Happy Prince’ as a graphic novel. But incidents from the story can be written in yet another genre: Blank Verse.

Writing Blank Verse.

1. Select one scene from The Happy Prince that you think shows the poverty of 19th century people.
2. Write two sentences describing the scene in your words.

3. Re-write your work. Change or re-arrange the sentences to express strongly how you feel. You can shorten the sentences, add new words, repeat words or use part sentences.



4. When you have polished your sentences to show exactly what you want, break them into lines of Blank Verse. See the model below as a guide.

The Seamstress.
In the fading winter light
A mother bends over her needlework.
She turns to see
Her sick child toss feverishly.
She knows,
Her long hours of toil will bring
Just a few coins.
Not enough for
The life saving medicine
So desperately
Needed.

5. When your blank verse is finished, re-write and display it with suitable illustrations.