

# Year 5 Merlins

## English

### Spring 2

# The Sleeper and The Spindle by Neil Gaiman.



## Punctuating direct speech

“Where are you?” asked Dan nervously.  
Quietly, Jen responded, “I’m over here.”

- Use inverted commas to show what is being said
- Use a new line for each new speaker
- Use a capital letter at the start of each piece of speech
- Put punctuation (? . or !) inside the inverted commas
- Use a comma before the first set of inverted commas if the person who is speaking is named before the speech

Key Vocabulary	Definition
<b>battlements</b>	The top part of a wall (like on a castle) with openings made for shooting through.
<b>crimson</b>	A deep shade of red.
<b>enchantress</b>	A woman who uses magic to put someone under a spell.
<b>gnarled</b>	Knobbly, rough and twisted – especially with age.
<b>honourable</b>	Someone who is honest, fair and worthy of respect.
<b>inevitable</b>	Unavoidable – certain to happen.
<b>laborious</b>	Something that takes lots of time or effort.
<b>merchant</b>	A person involved in buying or selling goods.
<b>mortal</b>	Something that can die.
<b>noble</b>	A high member of society – an aristocrat or coming from a wealthy family.
<b>noxious</b>	Harmful, poisonous or very unpleasant.
<b>perish</b>	To die (especially in a violent or sudden way).
<b>plague</b>	A contagious disease or illness which usually spreads quickly.
<b>spindle</b>	A piece of equipment used to spin wool or thread.
<b>unison</b>	Doing or saying something at the same time.

## Writing a letter

Letters can be written for a variety of reasons, including giving advice.

### Key features:

- The sender’s address
- The recipient’s address
- A greeting (Dear Sir/Madam,)
- An introduction, including the purpose of the letter
- Formal sentence starters (I am writing to you today because...)
- Paragraphs
- A concluding paragraph, including what needs to happen next
- A sign-off (Yours sincerely...)
- The sender’s name

## Précis/ Summarising

A précis is a condensed version of a text, keeping the main points and order of the original.

### Key features:

- Write in third person.
- Paraphrase, reflecting the author’s ideas without copying.
- Keep the original text in its entirety.

## Diary entry

A diary entry is a type of recount where the writer retells a series of events that they witnessed or were involved in.

### Key features:

- Write in first person, using first person pronouns.
- Write using the past tense.
- Break your writing into paragraphs based on different events.
- Use an informal tone.

## Character descriptions

A character description is a description of the characters who are included in a story. It includes details about their appearance and personality. A well-described character can make a story more engaging for readers.

### Key features:

- Figurative language (similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia)
- Prepositions to help the reader visualise the character
- Varied sentence structures (fronted adverbials, short sentences, relative clauses)
- Powerful adjectives and adverbs, including fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases