

English: Second Year

TASK	Write a tabloid style report.	
TOPIC	Personal Literacy – Writing Skills (The Field – J.B. Keane)	
LEARNING INTENTION	Students will be able to write a tabloid style report using the key features of tabloid style writing.	
TASK DESCRIPTION	<p><i>Write a tabloid style report on the murder of William Dee using features of tabloid style writing including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>alliteration in the headline</i></li> <li>• <i>sensationalist/emotional language</i></li> <li>• <i>short/simple words</i></li> <li>• <i>personal detail</i></li> <li>• <i>quotes/comments.</i></li> </ul> <p>Students are reminded of the tabloid and broadsheet newspapers. A sample article is presented and discussed. The students are asked how many features they remember and the answers are put on the board (with prompting from the teacher when necessary).</p> <p>Students are then given a template for a fictional newspaper, 'The Morning Mirror'. The exercise given is to write an article for the tabloid newspaper on the murder of William Dee in 'The Field'.</p> <p>At the end of class, these are collected and corrected. In the following class, students are given back their worksheets with the comments attached. They then are asked to read their efforts and the comments and to try again and see how they can improve.</p>	
CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <p>Write the tabloid article which contains details of the play and some of the following tabloid features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A sensationalist headline</li> <li>▪ Alliteration</li> <li>▪ Emotional language – influences the reader</li> <li>▪ Short/simple words</li> <li>▪ Detail on characters from the play</li> </ul>	
WORK SAMPLES	HIGH SUCCESS	MEDIUM SUCCESS
	Mary (second attempt) Lucas (second attempt)	Mary (first attempt) Lucas (first attempt)

# The Morning Mirror

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER DATE:

## Bull in the nick? <sup>A</sup>

Five days ago a man called <sup>B</sup> William Dee was brutally beaten to death near a field belonging to Mr Bull McCabe. <sup>C</sup> Gardaí arrested Bull McCabe yesterday at 4:15pm and was questioned at the bar in Coerrighmoreland, <sup>D</sup> Phoenix, Co. Mayo. <sup>E</sup> Specially did a post mortem on the body of Mr Dee and also took



Local farmer: Bull McCabe

one of Mr McCabe's boots for any signs of blood, results have not yet been released. Mr McCabe says the Bird o' Donnell <sup>C</sup> himself and his son were in Flanigan's bar until 2:45pm then went to the home of Bird o' Donnell. Most of this evidence points to Mr McCabe. <sup>D</sup>

## Dopey and the Seven Deleted D\*\*\*\*s

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs are being banned—well the word DWARF is anyway!

An amazed village panto group sent off for their script and found Dopey and his buddies — played

by kids — had to be called “gnomes” instead.

Gary Macy, 54, of the Tops Players in Cork said the ban was to avoid offending short people. Cont.

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# The Morning Mirror

A

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## Bull turns vicious to outsider

Five days ago an Englishman  
 named Wilkes Lee was brutally  
 beaten to death near a field.  
 by Mr. Bull. McCabe, or McCabe was  
 arrested and taken to the goods  
 trucks. "I HATE outsiders!" says



Mr. McCabe. Mrs. Maggie Butler, owner  
 of the field says "Mr. Lee wanted  
 to see the field." He was a nice man, a bit strong, well.  
 It is believed the field was up for auction, but Bull  
 McCabe doesn't want anyone to take the land off  
 him. "Are you guilty?" asked Sergeant Lebbey. "No, I'm not  
 guilty," says Bull. Maggie Butler says: "Bull is a very  
 aggressive man. Even a widow like me is afraid of him."

## Dopey and the Seven Deleted D\*\*\*\*\*s

Snow White And The Seven  
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An amazed village panto group  
 sent off for their script and found  
 Dopey and his buddies — played

by kids — had to be called  
 "gnomes" instead.

Gary Macy, 54, of the Tops Play-  
 ers in Cork said the ban was to  
 avoid offending short people.  
 Cont.

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C

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Feedback for Mary (first attempt)	
A.	Good headline - you correctly use slang, Mary. To improve you might consider using alliteration in the headline.
B.	Your emotional language used is excellent. Perhaps you might add some quotes from characters to further enhance your report.
C.	Good use of short and simple words, avoid difficult words.
D.	You can't directly say the evidence points to Bull McCabe, you need to let your writing show this is what you think.

Commentary for teachers (Mary's first attempt)	
<p>The student has some of the learning intentions present. The headline contains slang (A) and shows an understanding of the emotive words used in tabloids (B). She should avoid words that she is unfamiliar with though (C) and needs to learn that a journalist cannot directly say that someone is guilty of a crime but use her writing to show it (D). She is also advised to add some quotes to the article.</p>	

Feedback for Mary (second attempt)	
A.	Well done Mary, I see the alliteration in the headline!
B.	Good quotes from the characters that match the play.
C.	Your language gets across that you think the Bull is guilty – well done. Excellent work- we will work on your capital letters and spelling soon. Try and find some of these errors for yourself!

Commentary for teachers (Mary's second attempt)	
<p>Here the student now shows an improved understanding of what is required. The headline is still sensational but also uses alliteration (A). There are also additional quotes from the characters that match the play (B). Furthermore the language used gets across an implication that the Bull McCabe is the guilty party indirectly (C). While the student has capital letters, spelling mistakes and some incorrect tense use, these are not focused on here but the student is made aware that it is an issue.</p>	

Transcript of Mary's first attempt

**Bull in the nick?<sup>A</sup>**

Five days ago a man called William Dee was brutally beaten <sup>B</sup> to death near a field belonging to Mr. Bull McCabe. Gardí arrested Bull McCabe yesterday at 4:15pm and was questioned at the barrack in Carrigthomond. Forensic scientist Dr. Marie Cassidy did a post mortem on the body of Mr. Dee and also took one of Mr. McCabe's boots for any signs of blood. Results have not yet been released. <sup>C</sup> Mr. McCabe says the Bird O'Donnall, himself and his son were in Flanigan's bar until 2:45pm then went to the home of Bird O'Donnall. Most of this evidence points to Mr. McCabe. <sup>D</sup>

Transcript of Mary's second attempt

**Bull turns vicious to <sup>A</sup> outsider**

Five days ago an Englishman named William Dee was brutally beaten to death near a field rented by Mr. Bull McCabe. Mr. McCabe was arrested and taken to the Garda barracks. "I HATE outsiders" says Mr. McCabe. <sup>B</sup> Mrs. Maggie Butler, owner of the field says "Mr. Dee wanted to see the field". "He was a nice man, a bit strong willed". It is believed the field was up for auction but Bull McCabe doesn't want anyone to take the land off him. "Are you guilty" asked Sergeant Lebbey. "No, I'm not guilty" says Bull. Maggie Butler says: "Bull is a very aggressive man. Even a widow like me is afraid of him". <sup>C</sup>

# The Morning Mirror

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## Did Bull Kill Him?

A

The Bull McCabe a local farmer from Carraghs, was questioned about the murder of William Dee a man that only wanted a field to live in. Grand's have asked Mr Bull McCabe five times already about the murder but there is no evidence the murder was committed by The Bull McCabe only that two young girls saw two dark figures in the muddy space the night of the murder. Grand's have questioned Bird O'



Local farmer: Bull McCabe

Donnell, Mike Flanagan, Mrs Maggie Butler, Annie Flanagan and The Bull but no one is helping them every where they try they are met by silence. Please if any body knows who committed the murder please contact the police.

B

## Dopey and the Seven Deleted D\*\*\*\*s

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs are being banned—we'll the word DWARF is anyway!

An amazed village panto group sent off for their script and found Dopey and his buddies — played

by kids — had to be called "gnomes" instead.

Gary Macy, 54, of the Tops Players in Cork said the ban was to avoid offending short people. Cont.

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# The Morning Mirror

**A** The Shocking and Distraught Murder of Doc  
 Five weeks ago a body was found in a ditch  
 by a local girl called to be  
 Flanagan while out with a friend.  
 The Coroner has said his name  
 is William Doe.  
 The Gordon house operators Bird O'  
 Donnell, Mick Flanagan, Mrs Butler and  
 Mamie Flanagan but no one is  
 after giving them a clue or hint  
 as to who it could be. Gordon reckons  
 the murder was committed by local  
 man Bull McCabe.



**B** Gordon are stunned that no-one  
 saw who killed William Doe a  
 only wanted to buy a field. Local farmer: Bull McCabe

The Bird O'Donnell says to Gordon "I reckon it  
 was done by persons unknown!"

The Bull McCabe the police are Gordon suspect did  
 it says "it was done by a donkey or tinkers!"

Mamie Flanagan says "They seemed quite friendly to  
 me but then she goes on saying they were seriously friendly  
 or very friendly or would that amuse me if I said that"

Oh Sundry the Bishop gave a speech but no one has  
 helped.

**C** Please if somebody knows anything about the murder  
 contact the Gordon's they suggest Tom Leahy. This leaving news  
 family are shocked & distraught by William Doe murder.

## Dopey and the Seven Deleted D\*\*\*\*s

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Feedback for Lucas (first attempt)	
A.	This is a well written article and shows you know the play but does it seem like something from a tabloid, Lucas? You don't have a sensationalist heading or any alliteration in it!
B.	The language is short and simple but not emotional enough to influence the reader (except to ask for witnesses). Would more personal details or quotes/comments from the characters help make it more emotional?

Commentary for teachers (Lucas' first attempt)	
Here the student misses out on many of the learning criteria. While knowledge of the play is present, the headline isn't obviously tabloid (A). Although good personal detail is used, (B) the article contains more of the features of a broadsheet rather than a tabloid.	

Feedback for Lucas (second attempt)	
A.	Much better Lucas. A very good sensationalist headline!
B.	The quotes from the characters in the article show the emotional effect of the murder. This is a very good improvement.
C.	You have used more emotive words.

Commentary for teachers (Lucas' second attempt)	
The student has improved considerably. Almost all of the learning criteria are present. Sensationalist headline with alliteration (A), comments (B) and emotive words (C).	



*Transcript of Lucas' first attempt*

### **Did Bull Kill Him?<sup>A</sup>**

The Bull McCabe a local farmer<sup>B</sup> from Carraighthomond has been questioned about the murder of William Dee a man that only wanted a Field to Live in. Guards have asked Mr. Bull McCabe five times already about the murder<sup>A</sup> but there is no evidence the murder was committed by The Bull McCabe only that two young girls saw two dark figures in the murder scene the night of the murder. Guards have questioned Bird O'Donnell, Mick Flanagan, Mrs. Maggie Butler, Maimie Flanagan and The Bull but no-one is helping them everywhere they turn they are met by silence. Please if anybody knows who committed the murder please contact the police.<sup>B</sup>

*Transcript of Lucas' second attempt*

### **The Shocking and Distraught Murder of Dee<sup>A</sup>**

Five weeks ago a body was found in a ditch by a local girl called Aoife Flanagan while out with a friend. The Gardaí have said his name is William Dee.

The gardaí have questions Bird O'Donnell, Mick Flanagan, Mrs. Butler and Maimie Flanagan but no-one is after giving them a clue or a hint to who it could be. Gardaí reckon the murder was committed by local Farmer Bull McCabe.<sup>B</sup>

Gardaí are stunned<sup>C</sup> that no-one knows who killed William Dee a Friendly man who only wanted to buy a field.

The Bird O'Donnell says to Gardaí "I reckon it was done by person's unknown".<sup>B</sup>

The Bull McCabe the person who Gardaí suspect did it says 'It was done by a donkey or tinkers'.<sup>B</sup>

Maimie Flanagan says 'They seemed quite friendly to me' but then she goes on saying 'They were reasonably friendly or very friendly or would that convict me 'if I said that'.

On Sunday the Bishop gave a speech but no-one has helped.

'Please if someone knows anything about the murder, contact the Gardaí' says sergeant Tom Leahy. "This loving mans family are Shocked and Distraught by William Dee's murder.<sup>C</sup>