



English unit one - Letter Writing Skills
Year 7- Letter Writing Knowledge Organiser

1	Letter Layout	The layout of a formal letter follows a specific format. The layout of a letter should resemble the layout below.
2	Address	The sender address - top right of the page. You can add a recipient address - top left of the page; to include postal details.
3	Salutation	This is a greeting and should include the person's name if known, e.g Dear Mrs Hill.
4	Introductory Paragraph	Set out the aim/purpose of your letter. This paragraph should outline the main/key points of your letter.
5	Main Body of Letter	Fully explain the key points and give details about the objective of your letter.
6	Concluding paragraph	Sum up the points you have made to give clarity to your reader.
7	Discourse markers	Markers to navigate, e.g Firstly/secondly, furthermore
8	Sign off	Yours sincerely (if you know person's name) Yours faithfully (no name)
9	Standard English	Full standard English vocabulary creating a formal tone.
10	SPAG	Spell words correctly. A range of punctuation. Correct grammar.

	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Address"/>
	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Date"/>
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Salutation"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Introductory Paragraph"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Main Body of letter"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Concluding paragraph"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Appropriate sign off"/>	

Year 7 - Cirque du Freak - Knowledge Organiser

1. Context: Darren O'Shaughnessy - born 2 July 1972. He is an Irish writer and novelist. He is best known for his young adult fiction series <i>The Saga of Darren Shan</i> , <i>The Demonata</i> , and <i>Zom-B</i> , published under the pseudonym Darren Shan.	16. Characters- Annie Shan : Darren's younger sister.
2. Context: O'Shaughnessy was born in St Thomas's Hospital in London, opposite the Houses of Parliament.	17. Characters- Mr Dalton : Steve's favourite teacher and is the one that informs Darren that the freak circuses are illegal and banned
3. Context: At the age of three, he started school at English Martyrs' near the Elephant and Castle where he lived.	18. Characters - Madam Octa : Larten Crepsley's spider.
4. Context: When he was six, he moved with his parents and younger brother to Limerick in Ireland, where he has lived ever since.	19. Vocabulary: Contradict - <i>verb</i> - deny the truth of by asserting the opposite
5. Context: He returned to London in 1990 to pursue a degree in Sociology and English from Roehampton Institute of Higher Education.	20. Vocabulary: Hypnotize - <i>verb</i> - produce a state of hypnosis
6. Context: The Saga of Darren Shan - The Saga of Darren Shan is a young adult 12-part book series written by Darren Shan (pen name of Darren O'Shaughnessy) about the struggle of a boy who has become involved in the world of vampires. As of October 2008, the book has been published in 33 countries around the world, in 30 different languages.	21. Vocabulary: Optimistic - <i>adjective</i> - hopeful and confident about the future
7. Context: Cirque du Freaks – Started in the 19 th Century in America and Europe. A show that was hosted by people who were “unusual” – with performances expected to be shocking to viewers.	22. Vocabulary: Immerse - <i>verb</i> - dip or submerge in a liquid
8. Context: Cirque du Freaks During the 19 th century performing in an organised freak show was a relatively respectable way to earn a living. Many freak show performers were lucky and gifted enough to earn a livelihood.	23. Vocabulary: Vampire - <i>noun</i> - a corpse supposed to leave its grave at night to drink the blood of the living by biting their necks with long pointed canine teeth.
9. Context: Although freak shows were viewed as a place for entertainment, they were also a place of employment for those who could advertise, manage, and perform in its attractions.	24. Vocabulary: Perplex - <i>verb</i> -make (someone) feel completely baffled:

<p>10. Context: Cirque du Freaks: By the 20th century, the popularity of the freak show was starting to dwindle. In their prime, freak shows had been the main attraction for entertainment, but by 1940 they were starting to lose their audience, with credible people turning their backs on the show.</p>	<p>25. Vocabulary: Ancient- <i>adjective</i> - belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence:</p>
<p>11. Characters Darren Shan: The main character of his diary, which is expressed from his point of view.</p>	<p>26. Vocabulary: Freak - <i>noun</i>-a very unusual and unexpected event or situation</p>
<p>12. Characters- Steve Leonard: One of the main characters of the Saga, appearing in the first book Cirque Du Freak as Darren's best friend.</p>	<p>27. Vocabulary: -Macabre <i>adjective</i> - disturbing because concerned with or causing a fear of death</p>
<p>13.Characters- Larten Crepsley :The vampire that made Darren Shan his assistant after he saved Darren's friend, Steve.</p>	<p>28. Vocabulary: Apprentice - <i>noun</i> - a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having agreed to work for a fixed period at low wages</p>
<p>14. Themes- Truth and Reality: Right from the beginning, the author blurs the boundary between reality and fiction. For a start, he calls himself Darren Shan, which is the name he has given to his main character – except he tells us in the introduction that Darren Shan is a made-up name. He also announces very clearly that: "This is a true story".</p>	<p>29. Unhappy Families: "Steve doesn't get on with his mum". It upsets Darren to see Steve being nasty to his mum, but says he never really brings the subject up because "There are certain things you don't discuss with your friends if you're boys".</p>
<p>15. Freak Shows – Good or Bad?: These days, we know it's wrong to put unusual-looking people on stage for our amusement. As Darren and Steve's teacher Mr Dalton puts it, the freak shows of the Victorian era were "cruel and monstrous creations". That said, the boys are still keen to go and see this one.</p>	<p>30. Imperfect heroism: Most heroes in books don't go in for theft and blackmail (it's just not nice), so how do you feel about Darren deciding to steal Madam Octa and threaten to expose Mr Crepsley? Does it put you off him? Or do you understand and forgive him?</p>

Plot Summary - Darren and his friend Steve — both fascinated by the macabre — sneak out of their houses to attend an “underground” freak show, Cirque Du Freak. Steve recognizes one of the performers, Mr. Crepsley, who charms a spider using telepathy, an act performed by a vampire whom Steve has read about. Steve secretly confronts the man and asks to be his apprentice. Darren, who is obsessed with spiders, uses the conversation he's overheard to steal the spider (Madam Octa) and blackmail Mr. Crepsley, who is a vampire. Mr. Crepsley refuses Steve's request to be his apprentice, but Darren finally reveals to Steve that he's stolen the vampire's spider and has been training her. While she is uncaged, Madam Octa launches herself at Steve and bites him. He is close to death. Darren's only hope to save Steve is to get Mr. Crepsley's help. The vampire will only save Steve if Darren agrees to die and become reborn as the vampire's apprentice.