

Writing

Ideas

A SELECTION OF PERSONAL WRITING TASKS FOR
PRIMARY CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

What is the Writing over Time (WoT) project?

The WoT project is all about how children's writing, in the Merseyside area, has changed over time. To investigate this, samples of Merseyside children's writing has been digitised from the APU archive—the largest historical archive of children's reading, speech and writing. Similar data has also been collected and digitised from local partner schools from 2020-2022. The digitisation of this writing enables the comparison of writing before and after the Digital turn and implementation of the National Curriculum.

So what is this booklet for?

Not only does this research allow for the exploration of language and language change but it also facilitates an impact on the wider educational community through the transfer of research into tangible outcomes. We have therefore created this booklet complete with activities taken from the 1979-1988 APU writing tasks. It is a resource which can be used to support children's writing both in school and at home.

I HAVE SOMETHING EXCITING TO TELL YOU!



Write a short account about anything enjoyable or exciting which has happened to you recently. Imagine you are writing for a friend who wasn't there when it happened.

Some ideas to think about...

What happened? Did you get a pet? Go to the beach? Bake a cake? Win a prize? Overcome an obstacle? Write a description for your friend of everything that happened

Who was there? Was there anybody else there?

When did it happen? Was it last week? Or maybe yesterday?

Where were you? Were you at school? At home? At your friends house?

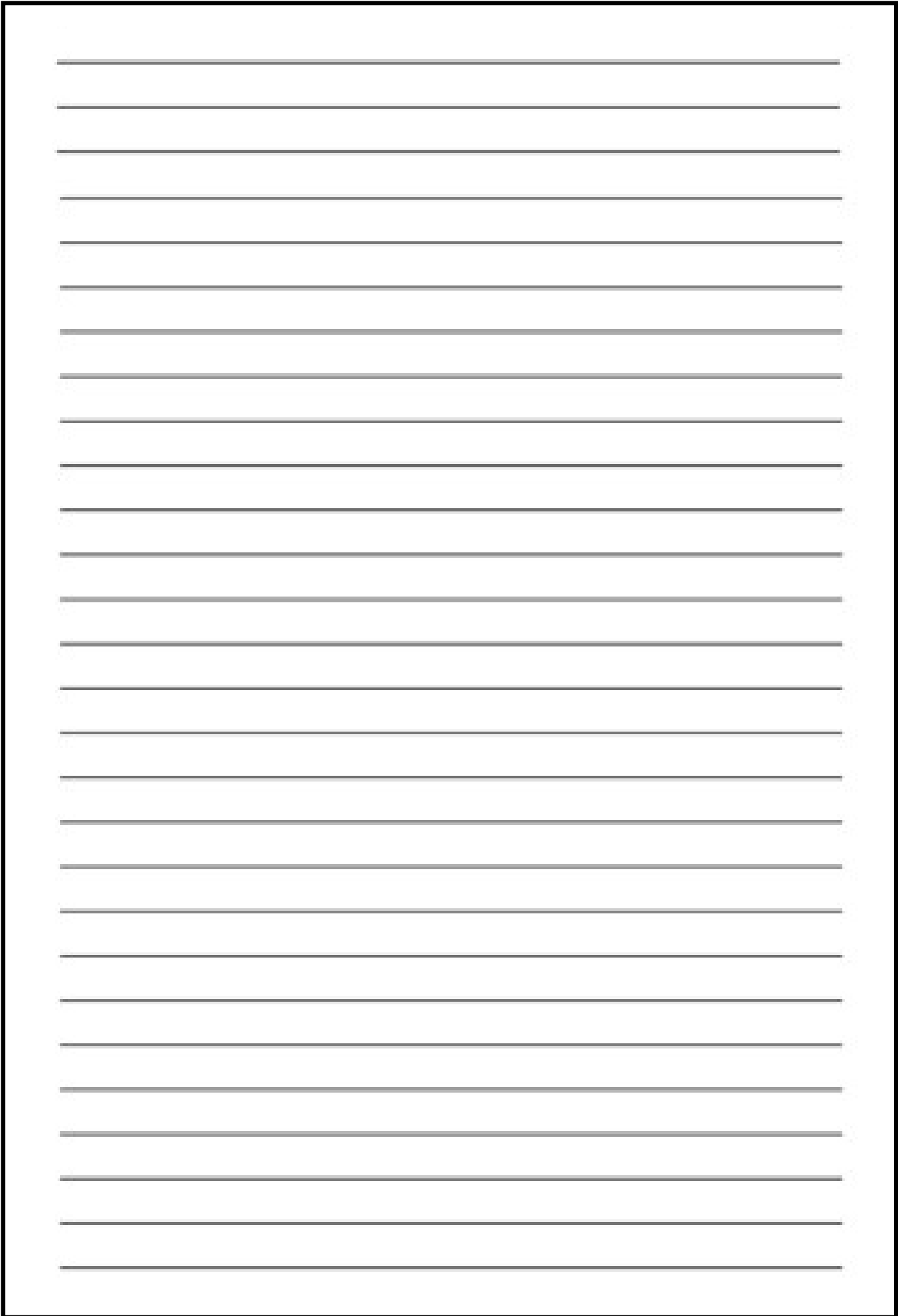
How did you feel? Talk about all the feelings you had when this enjoyable or exciting thing happened.

To inspire your writing, here is some vocabulary which you might decide to steal!

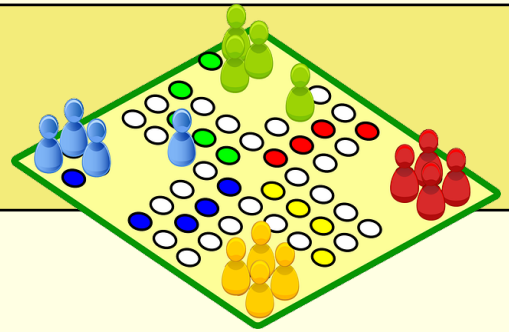
Ecstatic	Overjoyed	Thrilled
Excitement	Happiness	Delighted

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MY FAVOURITE GAME



If you were only allowed to play one game which one would it be? Describe how you play it and why you like it so much.

Some ideas to think about...

What is the game? Is it tag? Monopoly? Hide and seek? A computer game? An XBOX game? Talk about what the game is and describe how you play it. You might want to talk about any characters.

When do you play it? Do you play it after school? During school? On the weekend? Every day? Or maybe only at Christmas?

If you play it with someone, who do you play it with? Do you play it with your friends? Your family? Your neighbour? Or maybe even your dog!

Why do you like it? If this is the only game you want to play then talk about why it is so amazing!

Here are some sentence starters which you may like to use.

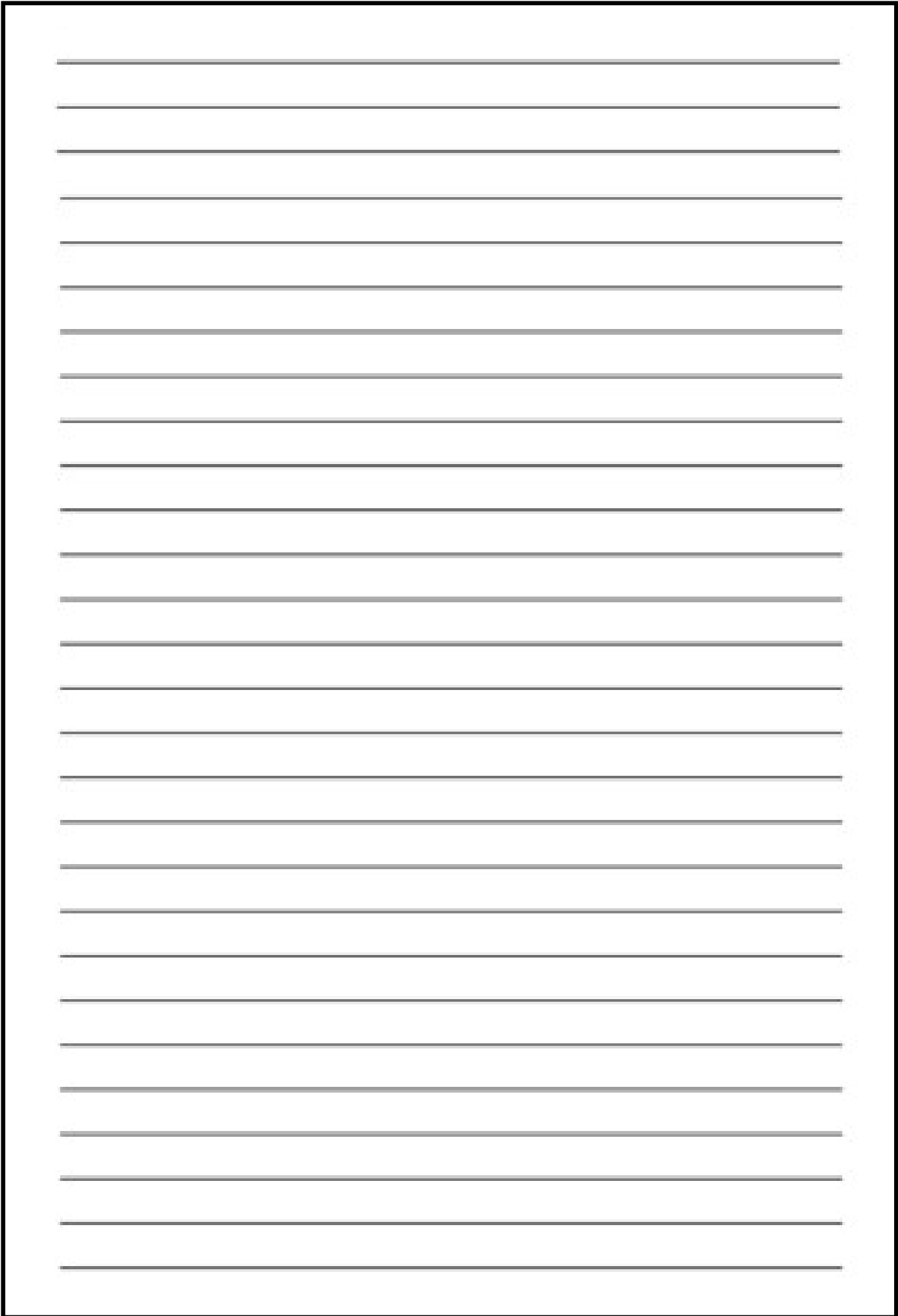
Out of all the games that exist, my favourite is...

I find this game the most entertaining because...

I would only ever like to play this game because...

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AN EARLY MEMORY




Think of the earliest thing you can remember when you were very young. It could be a place, a person, something that happened, even an object. Describe it as clearly as you can.

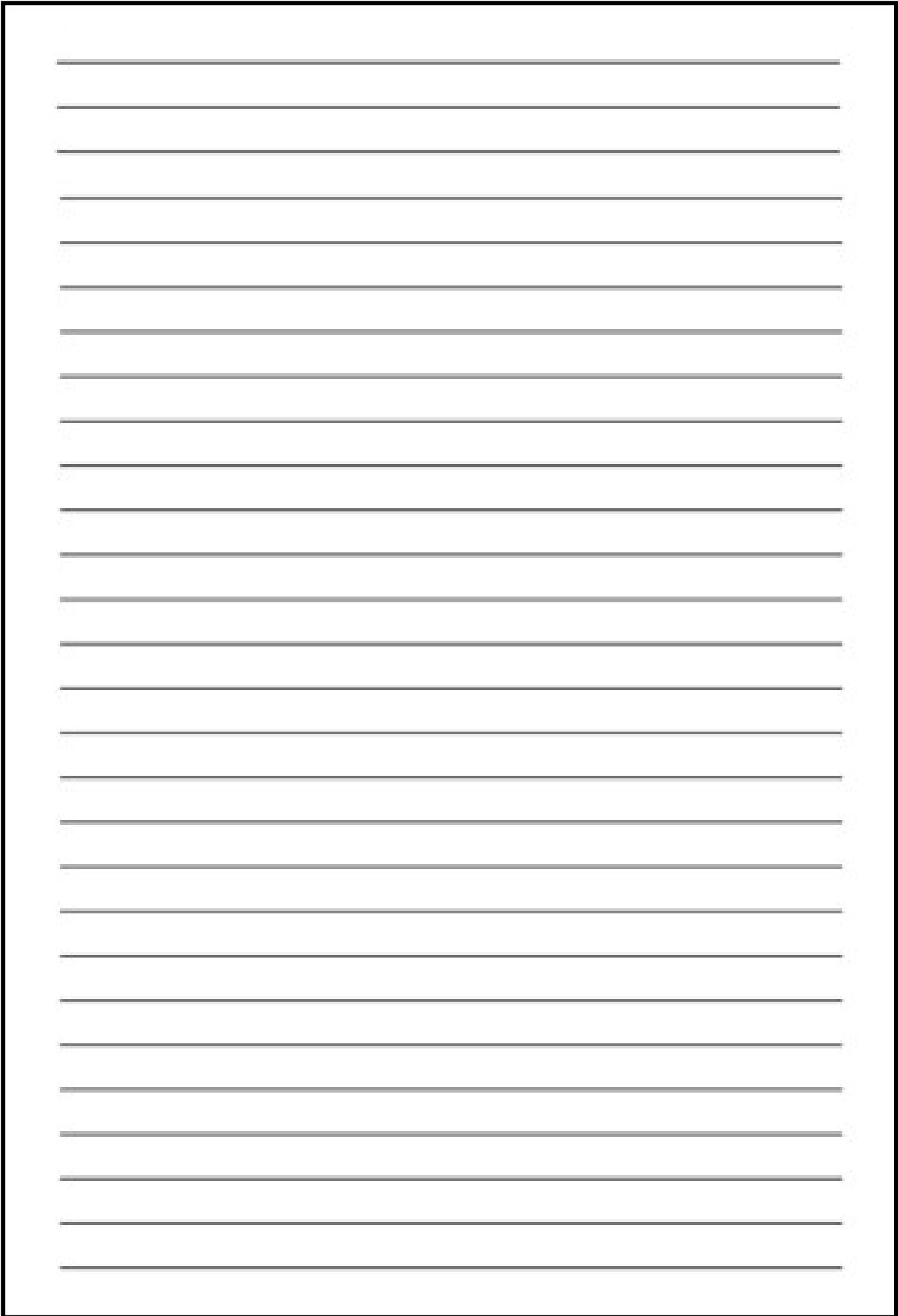
Some ideas to think about...

A clear description: Write about everything you can remember from this memory. If it is a person, describe what they looked like. If it is a place, where is it and what did it look like? If it is an object, describe how it looked. If it is something that happened, give details of exactly what took place, talk about where you were and who else might have been there.

How did you feel? If you can remember, write about how you were feeling at the time.

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AN INTERESTING THING



What is the most interesting thing you have learned during the last two weeks? It might be something you have read about or seen, or that you have been taught. Explain what it was and why you found it to be interesting.

Some ideas to think about...

What did you learn? Give a description of this interesting thing that you have learnt.

Where did you learn about it? Did you learn about this at school? At home? On a trip? Or maybe even at the shop?

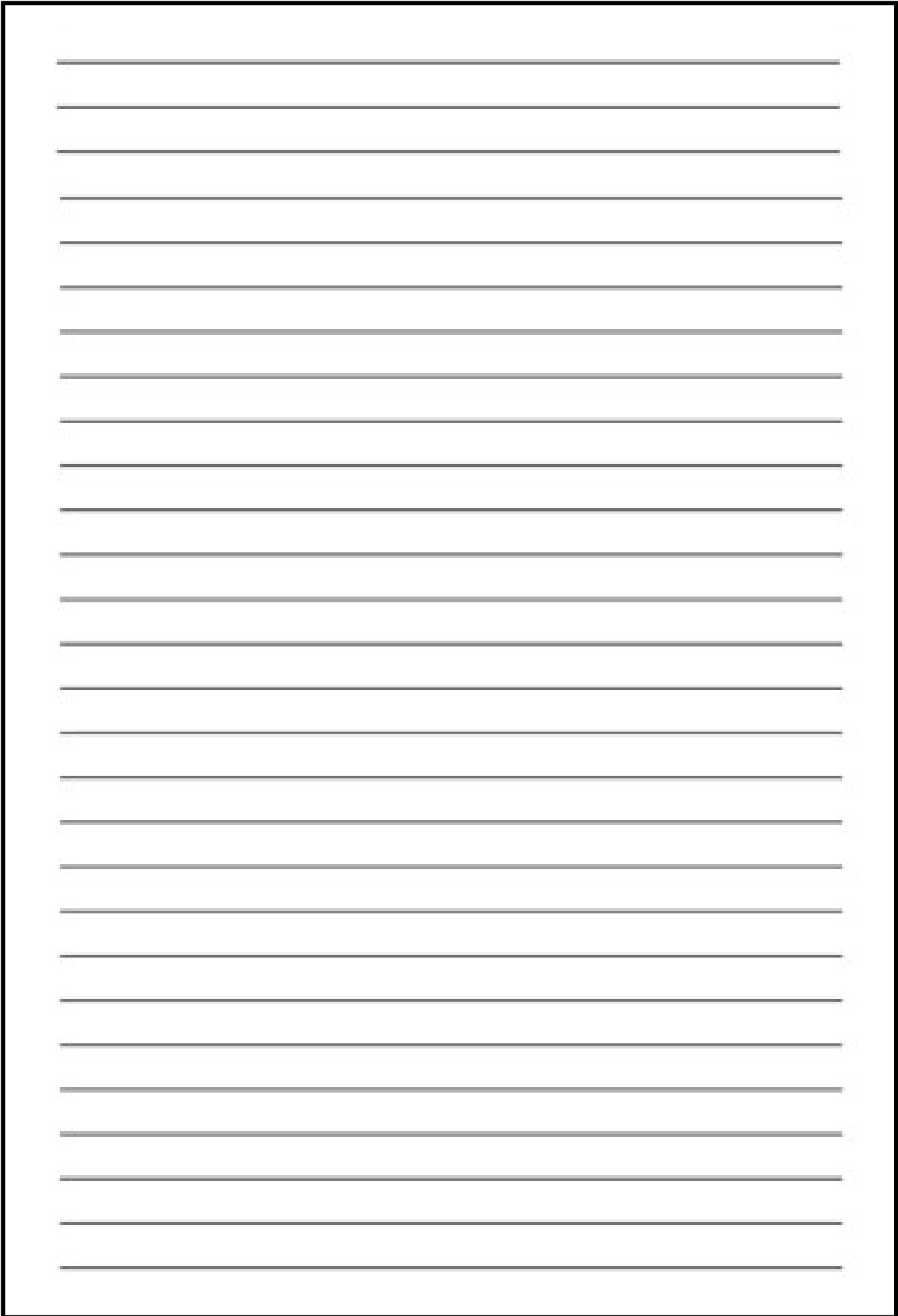
Who taught you this interesting thing? Was it your teacher? Your parents? Your friend?

Why did you find it interesting? Give some reasons why you found this thing interesting.

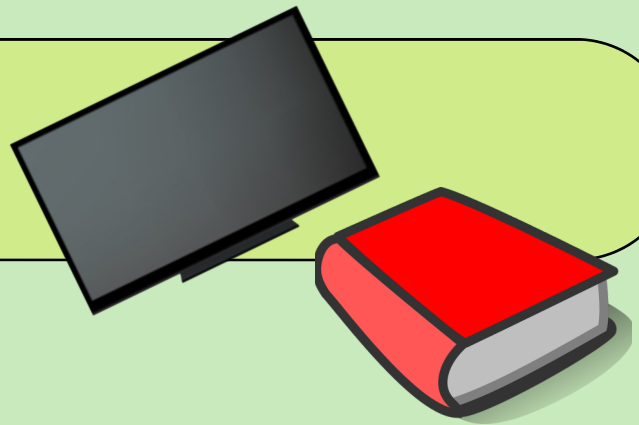
What are you going to do with this new information? Is there anybody that you have told or are going to tell about this interesting thing? Or maybe you went to learn more about it.

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TV OR BOOK?



If, on a free evening, you had the choice between watching a favourite television programme, or reading a book that you liked which would you choose and why? Explain in writing the reasons for your choice, and give enough details about either the television programme or book to make the reasons for your choice clear.

Some ideas to think about...

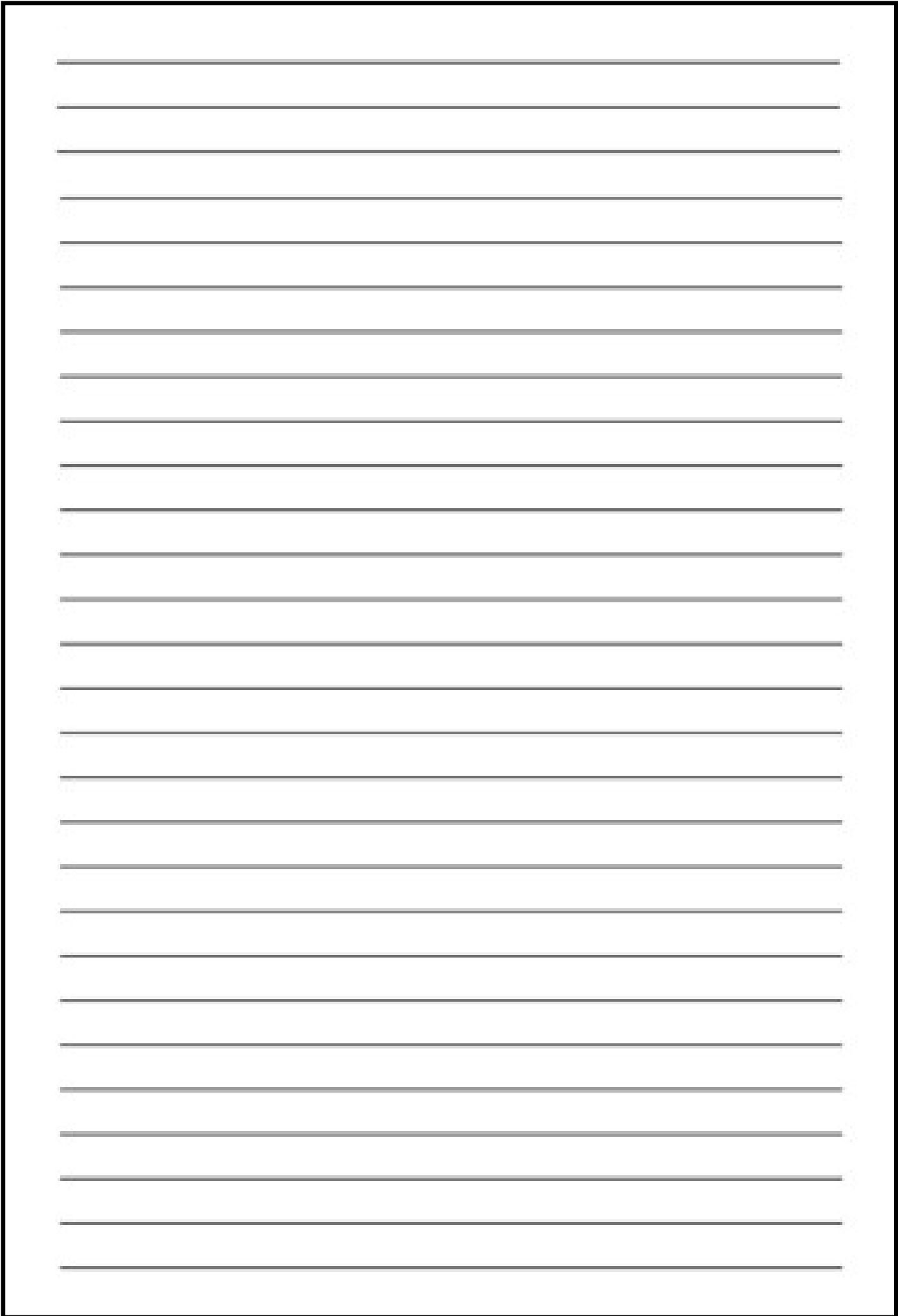
TV programme: If you decide that you would rather watch TV, then what is your favourite programme called? Who is in it? Where is it set? When does it come on TV? What kind of things happen in the programme? Do you watch it with anybody?

Book: If you decide that you would rather read a book, then what book would you read? Write what it is about. Are there any characters in it? Where is it set? Who has written it?

Why have you made this choice? Give reasons why you have chosen a TV programme or a book using the descriptions you have written. Have you chosen a book that you learn something from? Have you chosen a TV programme because it has your favourite character in? Have you chosen a book because it is written by your favourite author? Have you chosen a TV programme because you always watch it with your sibling?

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