

# ***WRITING A LITERARY DESCRIPTION***

***Purpose:***

*To describe a place,  
person, event or thing  
in an imaginative way.*

Study***ladder***



# *Examples of Different Types of Literary Descriptions:*

## *Characters*

*To describe the features or character of a person. The description can be part of a narrative.*

## *Setting & Events*

*To help readers imagine the setting of a narrative.*

*To describe the details of an event in a narrative.*



*Travel books, brochures, stories, novels,  
songs, poems.*

# Structure:

## 1) Classification or Generalisation:

*An introductory definition of the subject.*

## 2) Detailed Description:

*Systematic description of aspects of the subject.*

## 3) Concluding Statement:

*A summary of the information provided. May include an impersonal evaluative comment.*

## Structural Features:

*\* Use a title.*

*\* Organise by paragraphs.*

## Language Features:

- \* *Use descriptive language.*
- \* *Use adjectives to describe the features of a subject.*
- \* *Use adverbs to describe the actions of a subject.*
- \* *Use present tense.*
- \* *Focus on senses to describe the details.*
- \* *Use imagery to make descriptions come alive.*
- \* *Use metaphors, similes, personification.*

## Questions to Ask Yourself:

*Description: What does it look like? What does it sound like? What does it feel like? What does it smell like? What does it taste like? Where is it located? What are its special features?*