



Garden Trail Ideas for Creative Writing

Candie Gardens



Museums Education Service

Walk past Guernsey Museum's café Victoria and continue down the path or grass until you reach an old gate at the top of a steep pathway.

Take a few minutes to view the gardens from above, observe the tranquillity.

A Story.

Walk down the pathway and find the arched window and secret door.



Describe the archway. Write down five words or phrases that show you what it looks like or how it makes you feel.

Do the same with the green door.



The door is locked. Why? Is it locked to prevent someone from getting in? Or is it locked to prevent something or someone from getting out?

What is behind the locked door and would you dare to enter at night?

The Dreaming Trees.

Can you see the trees in the middle of the grass? Why do they seem odd and out of place here?

Where would they like to be and why? Do they dream of walking, talking or going on holiday?

*The trees dream of hot sunny places
Where warm water laps gently
Around their trunks.
Exotic birds fly in and out of their spiky leaves.*

Try giving the trees lots of different dreams:

*The trees dream of talking
To each other, exchanging news.*

*The trees dream of dancing
Of picking up their roots.*



The Ponds.

Find the ponds. Write down some words or phrases that describe what you see. You can use these words to write the beginning paragraph of a story.

Find the pond containing the greenest weed and less fish.

What do you think might lurk in the depths of the pond? What creatures could suddenly come to the surface, how would you feel?

Your title might be: "What Lies Beneath?"



Conversations with Carp

Look for the pond with the most carp in.

Stand for a few minutes just watching them. What are they thinking as you look down on them and they look up at you?

Throw us some bread please?

We're hungry.

Why do you stare at us?

Are we that strange?

"Hey Splash come and look at these humans?"

"Wow they do look odd

Be careful you don't fall in

You'll squash us".



Flower Beds

Find the flowerbeds. Watch to see what visits the flowers. It may be bees or butterflies. The butterflies and bees are delivering messages to the flowers. What might they be saying and who are the messages from?



An Iranian Poet once wrote of butterflies as "Love letters exchanged by flowers".

Think about what the flowers might want to say to each other.

What messages might flowers send to children, birds, insects, gardeners, the sun a watering can etc.

Oh Giant Sunflower
I am humbled by your height
I am ant, you are skyscraper
I am dwarfed by your majesty
You are an image of the sun
It's no fun being small
How I wish I were tall
Like you.....

Brain Moses
2001

The Statue



Could this be the guardian of Candie Gardens?

At one time this statue was a real person. How did he become a stone statue? May be a spell was cast upon him, why? How could he become a living person again?

Is he evil, or good? What is he guarding and why?

Write down some describing words and phrases that will help you to write a story about this statue, when you get back home or at school.

The Holly Bush

Find the holly bush that is very near to the statue and the oldest tree.

Collect words to describe the leaves - sharp, prickly, spiteful, a leaf gets its own back on anyone who picks it.

What creature does it remind you of - a hedgehog, porcupine, and dragon?

Talk about imagery and how poets use this as an aid to description. The following poem by Stanley Cook may be useful.

Thistles

Thistles are dragons growing wild
In the wind on the hillside
Fierce green dragons
With prickling stalks for legs
And leaves for wings with purple fire
They burn in fields or beside the road
Puffing out thistledown seeds
That blow away like smoke.

The Old Gnarled Tree

This tree is very, very old. I wonder what it has seen and heard over the years. You could begin with -This tree..... or Tell me tree.....

Think about all the things that the tree has seen in the hundred years or so since it was planted - people below, changing seasons, buildings demolished, dog walkers etc. Now think about all the things the tree has heard - traffic, shouts from children, birds, scenes from the Occupation and so on.



Tell Me Tree.

Tell me tree what have you heard and seen?

I've heard the loud gruff voices of builders giving instructions.

I've seen children running, strolling, calling to friends and crying.

I've heard the loud vibrating of the wartime sirens screaming out danger and piercing through the sky.

By Martyn Moullin

Amherst Junior School.

General Activities.

Where am I?

Describe the view at a particular trail point. Include description using your senses.

Naming of Points on the Trail.

Ask the children to suggest names for the places on the trail. Once places have been named then these can be used as the focus points for poems. Ancient peoples often believed that each place had its own spirit that watched over it. What would the spirits be like - friendly or unfriendly?

Future.

The gardens are under threat; they are about to be dug up for more housing.
Write letters of protest to the States of Guernsey.