

想象作文三步：怎么进队、干什么、怎么回

想象作文最容易犯的错，是开头一句“忽然我眼前一花，就到了取经路上”，然后不知道干什么，跟着师徒走了一路，什么也没做。写之前先回答三个问题：我怎么进队的？我在队伍里干什么活？故事怎么收场？

第一个问题，进队方式选一个就够，别写“我穿越了”这种用烂的。给你几个能落地的：我在书包里发现一把破蒲扇，扇一下，人就到了火焰山脚下；我帮铁扇婆婆找丢失的牛，她谢我，把我托付给路过的唐僧；我在图书馆翻《西游记》，书页里掉出一张地图，地图背面写着“缺一个挑水的”。最后这种最好，因为“缺一个挑水的”直接回答了第二个问题——你在队伍里有岗位。

第二个问题，岗位决定戏份。想象作文里“我”不能只当观众。假设我挑水，那火焰山这一难我就有活儿：孙悟空去借扇子，别人都看着，只有我注意到水囊里的水快没了，山下的村子也断水三天了。我提出跟沙僧下山帮村里运水，运水路上撞见牛魔王的手下，差点把水囊抢走。你看，岗位一确定，情节自己就长出来了。

第三个问题，收场要轻。别写“忽然闹钟一响，原来是梦”，读者最烦这个。收场用“留下一样东西”的办法：回到现实，书包里那把破蒲扇不见了，可课本第48页夹着一片焦黄的芭蕉叶。两行收住，故事就关上门了。

结尾的“团结”怎么不喊出来？让它在分工里自己显形：借扇子靠悟空，灭火靠扇子，救村子靠我和沙僧的水，一样缺了都过不去。结尾写“那晚我们五个人——加上白龙马——分最后一囊水，谁也没多喝一口”，团结这俩字不用出现，读者自己看得见。

动笔前在草稿纸上填三个空：进队方式（ ）、我的岗位（ ）、留下的东西（ ）。三个空填完，四百字的作文就有骨架了。

Three Steps for an Imaginative Essay: How to Join, What to Do, How to Return

The most common mistake in imaginative essays: an opening line like “suddenly my eyes dazzled, and I was on the journey to the scriptures”—then nothing to do, so the “I” follows the master and disciples the whole way doing nothing. Before writing, answer three questions: How did I join? What job do I do in the team? How does the story end?

Question one: pick one way in, and skip the worn-out “I time-traveled.” Try these grounded ones: I find a torn palm-leaf fan at the bottom of my schoolbag; one wave and I’m standing at the foot of Flaming Mountain. I help an old granny find her lost ox; grateful, she entrusts me to the passing Tang Seng. While flipping through Journey to the West in the library, a map falls out of the pages, and on its back it says “one water-carrier wanted.” The last one works best, because “water-carrier wanted” already answers question two—you have a post in the team.

Question two: the post decides your screen time. The "I" in an imaginative essay can't just be an audience. Suppose I carry water. Then at Flaming Mountain I have work: while Sun Wukong goes to borrow the banana fan and everyone else watches, only I notice our waterskin is nearly empty and the village below has been without water for three days. I offer to help Sha Wujing haul water down to the village, and on the way we run into Bull Demon King's minions, who nearly seize the skin. See—fix the post, and the plot grows by itself.

Question three: end lightly. Never write "an alarm rang—it was all a dream"; readers hate it most. End by "leaving one thing behind": back in reality, the torn fan is gone from my schoolbag, but a scorched yellow banana leaf is pressed inside page 48 of my textbook. Two lines, and the door closes.

How to land "unity" without shouting it? Let it show through the division of labor: borrowing the fan needs Wukong, killing the fire needs the fan, saving the village needs me and Sha Wujing's water—miss one link and nobody passes. End with "that night the five of us—including the white dragon horse—shared the last skin of water, and no one took an extra sip." The word unity never appears, yet readers can see it.

Before writing, fill three blanks on scratch paper: how I joined (), my post (), the thing left behind (). Three blanks filled, and a 400-word essay has its skeleton.