

CCA Open House

by By WRITERS AT WORK Curriculum Writing Team

Year 2024

PSLE COMPOSITION QUESTION



To demonstrate our approach to writing, below is a model composition writing that uses the WRITERS AT WORK methods and strategies.

Where words appear in highlighted, they help answer and address the composition question with the **chosen picture of the CCA Fair**:

Open houses were loud, pulsing with enough energy to turn a mundane school hall into Times Square on New Year's Eve. My school was no different. While everyone else dived in like fish to water, I felt about as buoyant as a bowling ball. My booth had been put together with the kind of hope that felt like tossing a paper aeroplane into a hurricane and praying it would fly.

Under **the banner "CCA open house,"** my booth was a quiet outpost lined with books, with a forlorn sign proclaiming "Library Club." **This was my first time** manning a booth at the annual **co-curricular activity (CCA) open house**, a job I never imagined I would take. When our school mandated participation in a CCA, I chose the Library Club. If you had social anxiety like I did, every conversation felt like walking a tightrope with a crippling fear of heights. I did not join for a love of the Dewey Decimal system or the scent of ageing paper; I joined because it was the one club that cherished silence. Books, unlike people, demanded nothing from you.

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Now, I was the last member of what might be the school's least popular CCA, and that meant **I was the lone ambassador at the open house**, tasked with the Sisyphean job of recruiting newcomers to a club that whispered in a world that preferred to shout. As graduation loomed, so did the ultimatum: attract new members or watch the Library Club disappear. **For once in my life**, I was stepping up to save the one place where I could truly be myself.

The soccer team boasted a foosball table, the drama club performed flamboyant monologues, and the band showcased new instruments. Then, there was me, standing beside a dusty stack of books, trying to sell silence and introspection while avoiding eye contact. **It was my first real venture** outside the library's comforting walls, and I felt glaringly out of place and utterly terrified.

The rules seemed simple: make eye contact, smile, be engaging. But for me, eye contact was like staring into the sun—too bright, too direct. Students and parents flowed past my table like water around a rock, drawn toward louder, flashier attractions. Every glance that slipped away felt like a quiet rejection.

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Then I saw him—a lanky kid clutching a well-worn copy of “Matilda” against his chest like a shield, looking as out of place as an apostrophe in a maths problem. He scanned the **crowded open house** with the same reluctance I felt. Our eyes met, and suddenly, a thread of connection tied us together, two people lost in the noise. For a moment, I saw my younger self in him—new to the school, clutching books like armour, searching for safe harbour. There was a flicker of recognition, and an instinctual urge to throw him a lifeline like someone once did for me.

Tapping into a reserve of courage I usually saved for killing spiders, I waved him over. Clearing my throat, I said, “That’s a great book. Are you a fan of prodigies or just into girls named Matilda?”

He cracked a smile. “Both, I guess,” he replied, stepping closer. “I’m trying to figure out the formula myself. I’m Lucas, by the way.” I laughed.

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Encouraged by his interest, I stepped even further out of my comfort zone. "If you like Roald Dahl, we've got more books over here. Interested in joining the club? It's pretty quiet," I added, hoping the promise of peace appealed to him as much as it did to me.

Lucas stepped closer, and I guided him through our collection, as well as how the library had helped me. He listened intently, and when he signed up, it felt like a small victory, not just for the club but for me. **For the first time**, I felt seen, no longer just the invisible girl behind a book.

As the open house wound down and the crowd thinned, Lucas helped me pack up **the booth**. "Thanks for talking to me," he said as we folded **the banner**. "I didn't think I'd find anyone else who liked quiet places too."

And that was the funny thing about life: sometimes you set out to find new members for your dying club but ended up finding someone who reminded you why you loved it in the first place. **I was glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to try something new.**

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Though I only acquired one new member, it felt like a monumental success. It was not about the numbers; it was about the connection, the reminder that this quiet space we had carved out among the books mattered. It mattered to me, and now, it mattered to someone new. That was more than enough.



The end.

