

WRITERS AT WORK

Leading Writing & English Enrichment

2026 PSLE MODEL COMPOSITION

Picture 1



MODEL COMPOSITION BASED ON PICTURE 1**2026 PSLE COMPO EXAM QUESTION**

Write a composition of at least 150 words about **a good way to spend time**

**Having a picnic****A pile of books****No phone sign**

The pictures, not arranged in sequence, are provided to help you think about this topic. Your composition should be based on one, two or all of these pictures.

I had always believed that a picnic at the beach was a good way to spend time together, so when my family started planning yet another Sunday at the shopping mall, I protested loudly. Hui Min groaned, and Father glanced longingly at the football fixtures on his phone, but Mother took my side. I spent the whole of Saturday preparing. I drew up a detailed checklist, scrubbed our old wicker basket and made two dozen tuna sandwiches, each one cut into a perfect triangle. By Sunday afternoon, I was certain that nothing could go wrong.

We found an empty stone picnic table on the grassy stretch beside the beach at East Coast Park. It had a thick, speckled top and a long stone bench on each side. Father and I sat on one bench while Mother and Hui Min squeezed onto the other, with Mother's backpack perched beside her. I smoothed a checked tablecloth over the table and lifted the lid of the basket with a proud flourish. Behind us, the sea shimmered under the afternoon sun, and a line of cargo ships dotted the horizon. For a few precious minutes, everything went exactly according to my checklist.

Then the crow arrived. It swooped down onto the far end of the table, cocked its glossy head and eyed my sandwiches as though it had been invited. Before I could shoo it away, the bird snatched a triangle clean out of the container and flew off towards the swaying palm trees. Hui Min burst into peals of laughter and declared, "Crows one, Tans zero!" Scowling, I snapped the lid shut on the remaining sandwiches and glared at the treetops, daring the thief to return.

From then on, things went from bad to worse. Reaching for his water bottle, Father knocked over my jug of homemade lemonade, and a sticky puddle spread across the tablecloth. Hui Min promptly awarded another point to the crows. Moments later, a thick cloud rolled in from the sea and swallowed the sun. Fat raindrops splattered onto the table, and within seconds, the drizzle had become a downpour. We snatched up the basket and dashed for the nearest shelter, with Mother holding the soggy tablecloth over her head like a cape.

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Huddled under the shelter's roof, I watched the rain drum mercilessly on the empty stone benches. My perfect plan lay in ruins. "So much for a good way to spend time," I thought miserably, my cheeks burning with embarrassment. I braced myself for Father's grumbling and Hui Min's teasing.

Instead, I heard a low chuckle. Father was staring at Mother, whose fringe was plastered to her forehead beneath the dripping tablecloth. A moment later, Mother was giggling helplessly, and soon Hui Min was clutching her stomach. When Father began flapping his arms in a wicked impression of me chasing the crow, I could not hold back any longer. I laughed until my sides ached and I had to lean against a pillar for support.

The shower stopped as abruptly as it had begun. We wiped the stone benches dry with a wad of napkins, spread the damp checked tablecloth over the table once more and took our old seats. The sandwiches had survived in their container, slightly squashed but still delicious. As we munched on the flattened triangles, the waves rolled gently onto the shore and the air smelled fresh and clean. Nobody reached for a phone, and Father did not mention football even once. Sitting around that stone table with sandwiches in our hands and grins on our faces, I knew that this was time well spent, even though nothing had gone according to plan.

As we packed up, Hui Min announced the final score: crows two, Tans zero. Then she paused and declared that the Tans had won after all, because we had had far more fun. I glanced down at my checklist, which was damp, smudged and barely half ticked. A good way to spend time, I had learnt, did not require a perfect plan. All it needed was the four of us gathered around a stone table by the sea, laughing at our own bad luck.

UNPACKING THE 2026 PSLE COMPO QUESTION: A GOOD WAY TO SPEND TIME

- **A**
 - Keep the story focused on one main experience.
- **Good way**
 - The way of spending time must be positive and worthwhile.
 - Your story must show why it is good: what did the main character gain from it?
- **Spend time**
 - Using your limited time on an activity instead of wasting it.
 - The activity should fill a big part of the story, not appear only in the last paragraph.
- **Important to Cover:**
 - ✓ What was the activity, and who was the main character with?
 - ✓ How did the main character usually spend time before this? (e.g. glued to his phone)
 - ✓ Why was it a good way to spend time? What did the main character gain?
 - ✓ How did the main character show he enjoyed it? Show it through what he says and does.