

WRITERS AT WORK

Leading Writing & English Enrichment

2026 PSLE MODEL COMPOSITION

Picture 2



MODEL COMPOSITION BASED ON PICTURE 2

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.

The afternoon rain had just stopped, leaving the windows of our house misty with tiny droplets. Rays of sunshine beamed through the window panes as if eager to dispel the rain. However, indoors, my mood was still gray. I sank into my chair and stared at the mountain of work waiting for me. *A stack of homework was piled high on the table, spilling down to the floor with worksheets, assessment books and files strewn around in a haphazard stack.* Usually, I would have groaned at the sight, but that day, I had something else on my mind. Mother had been feeling unwell recently, and I had noticed how she moved more slowly around the house. Still, I brushed the thought aside. After all, there would always be another day. I did not yet understand that **a good way to spend time** was not always about finishing everything as quickly as possible.

I sharpened my pencil and bent over my Mathematics worksheet. The scratching of my pencil against the paper filled the quiet room. A few minutes later, I heard the soft clink of a cup being placed on the table. I looked up and saw Mother lowering herself carefully into the chair beside me. Her face looked pale, and faint shadows lay beneath her eyes. She gave me a tired smile before reaching below to adjust the pile of books on the floor. "You have so much homework today," she remarked softly. I nodded and continued writing. Mother did not disturb me. Instead, she sat beside me, occasionally passing me an eraser or checking that I had not skipped a question. Somehow, the room no longer felt so lonely.

As the evening deepened, the sky outside turned a dusky orange before slowly fading into grey. I glanced at the clock and realised that I had been working for nearly an hour. My eyes were beginning to sting, and my fingers ached from gripping my pencil. Mother was still beside me. Every now and then, she took a small sip of warm water and watched me work. I suddenly noticed the little things I had never paid attention to before, the way she tucked her hair behind her ear, the soft cough that escaped her lips and the tired smile she gave whenever our eyes met. My chest tightened. I had spent so many afternoons rushing through my homework just so that I could play games or watch television. Yet now, having Mother beside me made the ordinary task feel strangely comforting.

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Then, Mother reached over and gently straightened one of my crooked worksheets. Her fingers trembled slightly before she withdrew her hand. I stared at them. Those were the same hands that had buttoned my school uniform when I was younger, packed my lunch every morning and wiped my tears whenever I came home upset. A lump formed in my throat. Suddenly, the pile of homework stacked on the table seemed far less important than the person sitting beside me. I put my pencil down and looked at Mother.

"Can you stay here with me while I finish?" I asked quietly. She smiled and nodded. "Of course."

For the next hour, we worked in comfortable silence. I completed my English worksheet while Mother wrote in a notebook beside me. Occasionally, our arms brushed against each other, and a small smile crept across my face. When I became stuck on a difficult question, Mother did not give me the answer. Instead, she encouraged me with a gentle nod, allowing me to work it out myself. The clock continued ticking, but for once, I did not feel impatient. I had once thought that free time had to be filled with exciting activities. That evening, I discovered that **spending my time with someone I loved** could be just as meaningful, even if we were doing nothing extraordinary.

Eventually, I completed the final question and placed my pencil on the table. The room was now bathed in the warm glow of the living-room lamp. The once-towering stack of homework had been reduced to a neat pile of completed worksheets. I leaned back in my chair, feeling a sense of satisfaction, but it was not because I had finished my work. I turned towards Mother and saw that she had fallen asleep in her chair. Her breathing was slow and peaceful. I quietly took her favourite woolen jacket from her room and draped it over her shoulders. As I did so, a warm feeling spread through me. I realised that I would remember that quiet evening far longer than I would remember the homework I had completed.

From that day onwards, I still completed my homework and fulfilled my responsibilities, but I no longer treated every free moment as something to rush through. Whenever Mother sat beside me, I made sure to put away my distractions and enjoy her company. *The homework could wait for a while, but the precious moments spent beside Mother could not.* I had finally understood that **time was best spent when it was shared with the people who mattered most.**

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.