Mr France’s group English for this week:
In Chapter 33 of Skellig, we read about Michael’s return to school:

We had Miss Clarts in the afternoon. I wrote a story about a boy exploring some abandoned warehouses by the river. He finds an old stinking tramp...

I saw the tears in Miss Clarts’ eyes as she sat beside me and read the story.

“It’s lovely, Michael,” she said.

Your new English teacher may not be called Miss Clarts, but will want to know how good you are at writing. This piece of writing needs to be your very best, as you are going to take it with you to your new school!

First, you are going to plan your story, using a story mountain. Try to plan in short bullet points rather than trying to write in full sentences.

Paragraph 1 Beginning:

Introduce/describe your main character.
Describe the setting- both the river and the warehouse.
Build some tension- How do you get in? How do you feel? How do you know there is someone inside?

Choose some words to describe the warehouse- inside & out.
Paragraph 2 Build Up:

How do you know someone is there?
How do you feel when you realise you are not alone?
How does the other person react when they see you? Describe the character you have met.
(A tramp is a homeless person who walks around from place to place. They walk to different places in search of work, but they usually don’t stay very long in one place. Some tramps prefer this life; most homeless people do not and would rather live in one place.)

You should include a short conversation, but take care with your punctuation here. Make sure your dialogue conveys character, as it is our first meeting with him/her.

Paragraph 3 - Problem:

You need to describe some kind of problem here. Decide if your tramp is friendly or not. Does he or she need something? If they do, what is it? How do you feel about this? Maybe the tramp is hurt or ill and needs some kind of help. Choose ONE of these and write about it. What was the conversation? Here, dialogue should convey character and/or move the plot forward (like when Skellig asks Michael for food or aspirin). MAKE THIS PARAGRAPH EXCITING!

Paragraph 4 - Resolution:

In this paragraph, you need to describe how you managed to get the item or help the tramp needed- but don’t make it sound too easy. You must develop the plot and your paragraph needs to be AT LEAST 5 sentences long.

Paragraph 5 - Ending:

Now that you have solved the tramp’s problem, what will happen to him/ her? Are you going to stay friends? Will you go back and see him or her? What will you do if they are not there next time you go? How will you feel?
Here is a story mountain for you to help you. You could print it out or just copy it onto your page, using the headings to guide you. On your plan, you DO NOT need to write in full sentences.

Once your plan is finished, create your first draft. Share it with someone at home and try to ensure it is the best it can be. It will probably take you all week to get a final draft finished.

Lastly, you need to write up your story in your best handwriting. It should be finished by next **Tuesday, 9th June**.

If you do not have any paper to write on, you can pop into school and ask at the office.

You need to look after your work carefully and either take it with you if you have a visit to the school, or take it on your first day of term. **Make sure your name is on all your pieces of paper and put it in a plastic wallet or pocket, if you can, to keep it safe.**

If you have any problems or questions, please email MRS FARUQI through DB Primary, as your other teachers are in school.