

In the lesson today, you will be planning to write a flashback that begins when looking through a Pensieve, one of the objects that J.K. Rowling writes about in the Harry Potter series. Read the description of the Pensieve first to check your understanding of what it is, then move onto the planning sheet on the next page. It is up to you who your characters are, where they are and what happens to them within the flashback. The only link we are making to the Harry Potter series is the use of the Pensieve, so be as creative as possible with your other ideas!

What is a Pensieve?



A Pensieve is a stone receptacle in which to store memories. Covered in mystic runes, it contains a type of matter that is described as neither liquid nor gas. A witch or wizard can extract their own memories or someone else's and store them in the Pensieve and review them later. It also relieves the mind when it becomes cluttered with information. Anyone can examine the memories in the Pensieve, which also allows viewers to fully immerse themselves in the memories stored within, much like a magical form of virtual reality.

Tom Riddle's diary seems to have this same form of virtual reality. Oddly, users of these devices view the memories from a third person view. This of course, raises questions of how they are able to see things beyond what they have remembered. Rowling answered this question in an interview, confirming that memories in the Pensieve allow one to view details of things that happened even if they did not notice or remember them, and stated that, "That's the magic of the Pensieve, what brings it alive". The 'memories' contained in the Pensieve have the appearance of silver threads.

Pensieve is a mixture of the word 'sieve' (a device used for sifting) and 'pensive' (thoughtful or full of thoughts).

Dumbledore's Pensieve first appears in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, again in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, and plays a pivotal role in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. It makes a last appearance in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows when Harry uses it to decipher the memories of Severus Snape.

My flashback plan:

Before the flashback (how my character finds the Pensieve and decides to look into it):

During the flashback:

- What happens?
- Where does the person go to?
- What time in their life does the person re-visit? Why?
- Who do they see again during the flashback?

After the flashback:

- How does the character leave the flashback? What happens to them? (e.g. are they pulled from the Pensieve or does something in the flashback trigger a reminder of the present day?)

Language features to include (e.g. similes, metaphors, fronted adverbials, relative clauses, prepositional phrases)

Description of the settings before, during and after the flashback:

Any adjectives I could use to make my flashback more effective: