

You will work through some tasks to help you prepare a piece of
WRITING TO ENTER THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE, ON THE THEME
OF

**'A NEW DIRECTION: STARTING
SMALL'**



ORWELL
YOUTH
PRIZE

LESSON 2 – reading George Orwell's *Wonder Walk: Some Thoughts on the Common Toad* – and deciding what makes it good writing

1. Reading or listening

Read the full text here:

<https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/some-thoughts-on-the-common-toad/>

Or listen to Orwell's son and great grandson read it! It takes 10 minutes – 3 minutes intro and 7 minutes for the essay, which is a little bit shortened.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2tMs3ZZiEM>

2. Thinking and writing:

How does Orwell make a good piece of writing out of a small, everyday creature? (allow up to 45 minutes)

Build your answer by writing the 6 paragraphs below. For each one, use a quote from the numbered **paragraph** in *Common Toad*. (**You will need to number the 8 paragraphs!**)

- 1) How does Orwell use language at the start of the essay to make the most of the toad emerging in **Paragraph 1**?
- 2) Orwell is not famous for comedy, but he has a dry sense of humour. How does he use funny description in **Paragraph 3**?
- 3) Orwell refers to a 'worn-out figure of speech'. How does he make everyday language feel original in **Paragraphs 4-5**?
- 4) Rhetorical questions are among the most over-used devices. What makes the two rhetorical questions effective in **Paragraph 6**?
- 5) What makes Orwell's closing reflection a satisfying ending? **Paragraph 8**.
- 6) Your conclusion: how has he structured or organised the piece overall to make it entertaining? *Now you have finished!*



Skills? *This will help you deepen your response to non-fiction and your own technique in writing it*