**Y5: Hummingbird Writing Tasks**

Choose one or more of the following writing tasks:

**Produce a Powerpoint presentation about hummingbirds** that you could present to another class of children in your school. Include pictures and key facts. You could look at some YouTube clips to inspire you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPRswRWZ23Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQZ_BYjfIy8>

**Story:** Environmental activist Wangari Maathai has written a short story about a hummingbird that may help children to think about climate change:

A raging fire is burning in the jungle. It is such an overwhelming disaster that all of the animals are watching the conflagration in shock.

A hummingbird says, “I'm going to do something about the fire."

It flies to the nearest stream and takes a drop of water. It races back to the fire, where it drops the water onto the flames. Back and forth it goes, over and over, while the larger animals — like the elephant whose trunk could deliver so much more water — stand watching.

Eventually they ask the hummingbird, “What do you think you can do? You're too little!"

Without pausing, the hummingbird answers, “I am doing the best that I can.”

Wangari says the story has a simple point. "I may feel insignificant, but I certainly don't want to be like the animals watching the planet goes down the drain. I will be a hummingbird. I will do the best I can."

Can you write a longer version of this story adding extra detail to engage the reader? You might like to write in the voice of the hummingbird in the first person.

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| **Year 5 Writing Checklist**   * Does your writing make sense? * Have you used a range of appropriate punctuation? * Is your spelling accurate? * Are the sentences varied in length and structure? * Have you used some interesting words appropriate to the style of writing? * Have you avoided unnecessary repetition? * Is the writing clearly organised into paragraphs? * Is the writing in the correct tense? |

**Write a poem addressed to a hummingbird**. The poem below might give you some ideas. Notice how Poppy-Mai uses questions and lots of alliteration in her poem.

**TO A HUMMINGBIRD**

*Poppy-Mai (St Joseph’s School Bridgwater)*

O, happy, harmonious hummingbird,

you’re a bundle of hopeful dreams.

Is this just an hallucination?

Am I just imagining your heavenly music?

Your wings are so delicate and diminutive.

All hail wondrous bird!

Your powerful, sensitive wings

turn on like a machine,

and you take flight,

darting into the clear blue sky.

How do you do it so QUICKLY?!

As you hover among a hundred flowers,

what heroic dreams are hidden inside your heart?

How handsome you are with your harlequin feathers.

They are honestly gorgeous,

like an autumn harvest,

or sunset colours of dusk and twilight.

Your beak pierces into the tulips’ sweet centres

to feed on the delectable, sugary nectar.

O, happy, harmonious hummingbird,

the hum of your song rings in heaven,

as you ascend swiftly through the cloud-fores