A sign with a person's face on it

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceYou 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’**](https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-youth-prize/2018-youth-prize/2021-theme-a-new-direction-starting-small/)

**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>

1. **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\*