

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Postcards
from future
Queensland



LESSON 2: One year after lockdown

**Write a short scene about unboxing—or unwrapping!
—a brilliant, new piece of technology that will change
your life for the better.**

Hi everyone, I'm Helen Marshall. I'm a science fiction writer and last year my first book came out. It was called *The Migration* which was all about – you guessed it – a global pandemic.

Science fiction writers can be awfully good at guessing some things about the future. Like, a science fiction writer named William Gibson coined the term 'cyberspace' and Star Trek gave us the inspiration for mobile phones. And in this lesson I'm going to help you guys do exactly that.

For your challenge I've asked you to write about unboxing some flashy, wonderful bit of new technology one year after lockdown. Now remember, it can be anything in the world—or more precisely, it can be something that doesn't exist in the world now but may be will one day. So here's what I want you to do.

First, start off by observing the present. Observation is a skill that is so useful for writers. Think about what you've been doing differently since the lockdown started. Are you on your phone more? Or less? Are you doing chores differently? Or your homework? Or seeing your friends? Now what do you wish you could do? Technology always exists to fill a gap. It serves a purpose.

Second, imagine the thing itself. Don't worry about how it works—science fiction writers often get that wrong. Instead, focus on how it changes your life for the better. What will it allow you to do that you've always wanted to do?

Third, push it further. What will things be like if everyone—or even most people—has one of these? How will the world be different? All right, time to get to it!

Visit hass.uq.edu.au/wish-you-were-here to send us your postcard!

We can't wait to read your dreams and visions, and stories of another world.



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