

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Your own ‘fiction out of reality’

Martin Parr is a British documentary photographer and photojournalist. He is known for his photographic projects that take an intimate and satirical look at aspects of modern life, documenting the social classes of England, and leisure and consumption in the Western world.

Go to <https://www.martinparr.com/blog/>. The sidebar on the right shows you all his posts. Look at them and find one photo you particularly like. Add the photo to your portfolio. You are going to write two texts about this photo.

1. Describe what you see.

Write a coherent text (complete sentences, linking words) answering the following questions:

- What can you see in the picture?
- Which creative choices did Parr make (e.g. colours, composition, perspective, ...)?
- What can you learn about the context (e.g. from the blog post)?
- What can you learn from this picture (e.g. about British society, about the person in the picture, ...)?
- Why did you choose this picture?

2. Narrate what you can't see.

Choose *one* of the following ideas. Write about 250 words.

Step inside

Look carefully at the picture. Choose one person and put yourself in their position.

What does the person say / think / feel? What might the person know about?

Speak from their perspective in the “I-form”. In a monologue, reveal who you are, why you are in the picture and what you do and know.

Beginning / Middle / End

- Look at the picture. Imagine that it shows the beginning of a story. Retell how the story starts and think about how the story continues.

OR

- Look at the picture. Imagine that it represents the middle part of a story. Retell what happened before, what is happening right now and what might happen next.

OR

- Look at the picture. Imagine that it shows the end of a story. Retell what the story is about and how the story ends.