

Contents

Introduction	4
Links to the curriculum	5
Writing	6
Drafting.....	7
Choose a character	8
Create a character	9
Choose a story.....	10
Gathering ideas	11
Win the vote.....	12
What can you see?.....	13
Senses	14
Create a helpful character	15
Gold medal.....	16
Revise a story.....	17
Starting with dialogue	18
Start with a noun.....	19
Start with an abstract noun.....	20
Pesky Pronouns.....	21
Amazing adjectives	22
Varying verbs.....	23
Starting with an adverb	24
All about 'Who?'	25
Major problem!	26
Describe your character	27
Storyboarding.....	28
Create a plot.....	29
Getting to the Wizards' conference.....	30
Acrostics	31
Repeater poems.....	32
Write a narrative poem	33
'How to make ... ' poem.....	34
10 ways to	35
Write a play	36
Make something happen	37
Making notes.....	38
What's going on here?.....	39
What did he say?	40
Beginning, middle and end	41
Take on setting	42
How to make your writing better.....	43
Get a review	44
Plan for story writing	45
Planning for recount writing.....	46
Planning for persuasive writing	47
All about my writing.....	48
Thinking about my writing	49

Introduction

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The **Brilliant Activities for Creative Writing** series is designed to stimulate developing writers to access the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for writing composition.

Each book contains practice activities to assist pupils in understanding, revising and consolidating their skills in writing. The activities are structured to help each pupil to understand how to:

- write for a widening range of purposes and audiences
- organize ideas into coherent and grammatically correct sentences
- improve, and make progress in, their own writing
- increase their accuracy in the use of punctuation
- develop their knowledge and confidence in spelling
- use and enlarge their writing vocabulary
- write in different ways for different genres and types of text
- develop their own way with words

The sheets are structured but flexible so that they can be used alone or as follow-ons. The ideas on the sheets can all be used as a basis for more lessons for reinforcement purposes. Each book aims to offer:

- a range of familiar text forms
- a range of appropriate contexts
- opportunities to experiment with words drawn from language experience, literature and media
- opportunities to select vocabulary according to demands of activity
- use of proof-reading, checking and editing, sharing with peers
- encouragement to pupils to reflect upon their understanding of the writing process

Each activity is fully explained and the teacher tip boxes give hints and suggestions for making the most of them or for follow-up activities. No additional resources are necessary, other than writing implements and extra paper for more extended writing where it is appropriate. Children should be encouraged to talk about what they are going to write, prior to writing, with a partner, in groups or as a class. Discussing what they want to write, prior to doing so, will help them to structure their thoughts and ideas. Through careful questioning, adults can help children to develop their vocabulary and understanding of how language works.

Obviously, all of the activities would work well if the children are able to word process on a computer at some times – this would be an added bonus.

It is hoped that this series of books will encourage pupils to use their writing to reflect upon and monitor their own learning, to encourage them to read as writers and to write as readers and, more than anything else, to learn to write with joy.

Links to the curriculum

The sheets in **Brilliant Activities for Creative Writing** will help Year 4 pupils to develop their composition skills, as set out in the National Curriculum for England (2014).

Composition

The sheets in **Brilliant Activities for Creative Writing** help pupils to plan their writing, by providing a structured format for discussing and recording their ideas. Pupils should also be given the opportunity to read and discuss other pieces of writing, so that they learn from the structure, vocabulary and grammar.

Composing and rehearsing sentences orally, prior to writing, helps pupils to build a varied and rich vocabulary and encourages an increased range of sentence structures. Talking through what they want to say will also help pupils to become aware of when they should start a new paragraph. The Tip boxes at the bottom of each sheet provide starting points for discussions.

The activities support pupils in developing settings, characters and plot in their narrative writing. Those sheets focusing on non-narrative writing introduce the use of simple organizational devices such as headings and bullet points. The Planning sheets (pages 45–47) will help them to focus on the features particular to each type of writing.

When pupils have finished their writing, they should be encouraged to re-read and their work and to think about how it can be improved. Discussing their work with you and with other pupils will help them to assess the effectiveness of their own writing.

Reading their writing aloud helps children to see that their writing is valued. Encourage pupils to use appropriate intonation and to control the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Many of the sheets can be used to reinforce children's understanding of grammar and punctuation, but this is not the primary purpose of the sheets. Many sheets contain Word boxes to encourage children to extend their range of vocabulary and prompt them to use new words in their writing.

The following sheets deal with particular grammar and punctuation points:

- Choose a character (page 8) – use of adjectives, third person voice and present tense
- What can you see? (page 13) – adjectives
- Create a helpful character (page 15) – using third person voice and past tense
- Starting with dialogue (page 18) – speech marks
- Start with a noun (page 19) – nouns, plurals
- Start with an abstract noun (page 20) – abstract nouns
- Pesky pronouns (page 21) – pronouns
- Amazing adjectives (page 22) – adjectives
- Varying verbs (page 23) – verb tenses
- Starting with an adverb (page 24) – adverbs
- 'How to make' poem (page 34) – metaphors
- What's going on here? (page 39) – using first person voice and past tense.
- What did he say? (page 40) – speech marks

Making notes



Notes

Jot down what you can see from the illustration above.

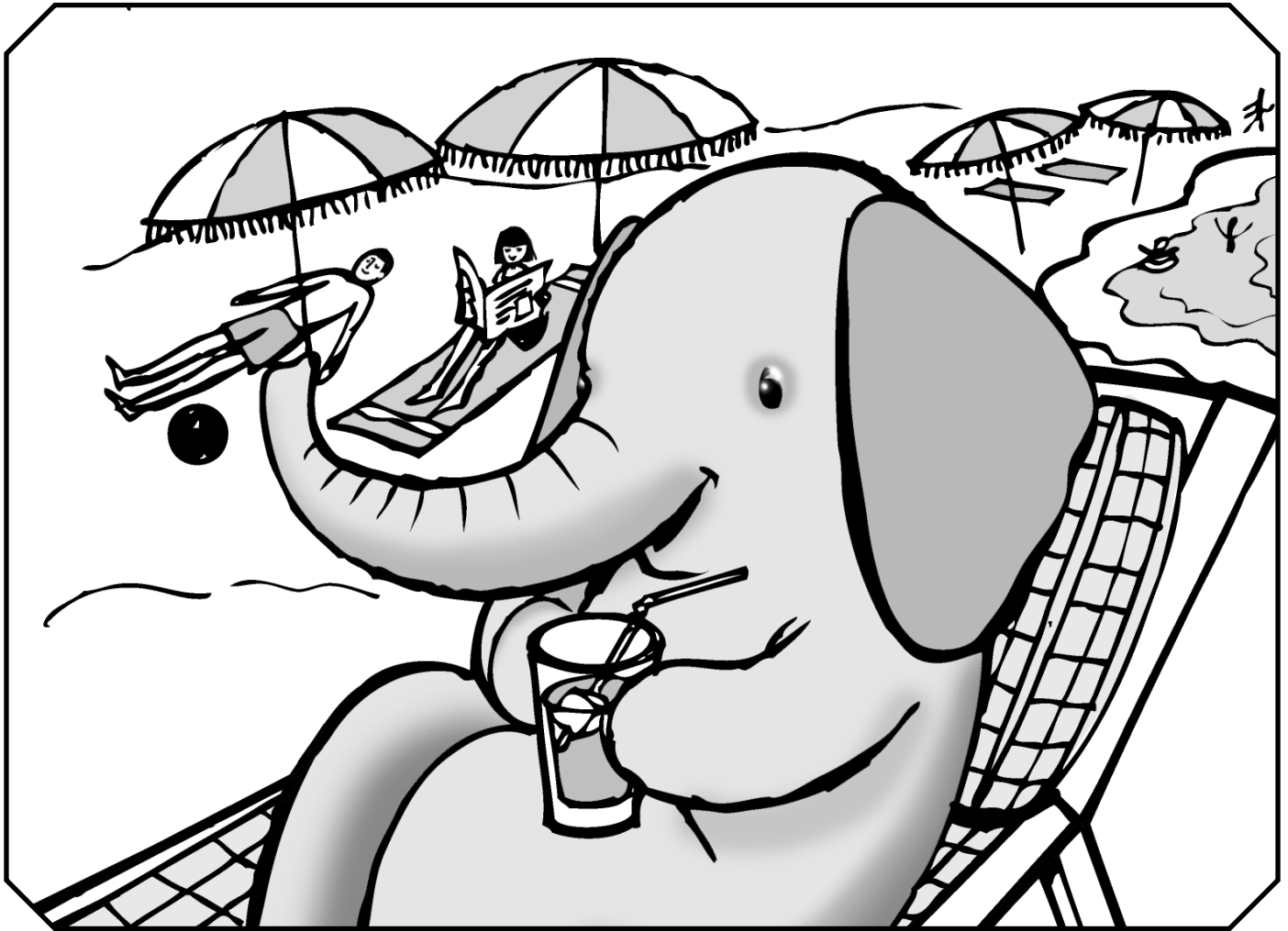
Now write down what might happen in your story?

Remember

You do not have to write notes in sentences. The notes are just to jog your memory. Writing them as you go along is useful.

Explain about phrases and sentences. Explain about jotting down single words of parts of ideas. Use notes to start planning.

What's going on here?



Write the story.

Remember

Write in the first person (I) and in the past tense.

Lots of talking to explore and develop ideas. Can be as silly as the children wish, without any restrictions or criticism.

How to make your writing better

Choose a piece of writing you have done recently.

Work in pairs to listen carefully and observantly, and to respond objectively.

Give three things your partner likes about the writing.

1. _ _ _ _ _
2. _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _

Give three things you both agree would improve the writing.

1. _ _ _ _ _
2. _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _

Edit your writing by:

- crossing out words you don't need
- adding words that you want
- changing words for better ones
- correcting spellings
- changing the order of words or sentences
- checking words in a dictionary or thesaurus