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Introduction

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 (at the very bottom of the page) give hints and suggestions for making the most of them or for follow-up activities. The only additional resources needed are writing materials, workbooks/additional paper for the continuation of the activity and 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 5 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, recording and developing their ideas. The sheets provide pupils with the opportunity to write for a variety of different genre and audiences. The sheets should be used in conjunction with other classroom reading resources and pupils will benefit from analysing the structure, vocabulary and grammar used in other similar texts.

The narrative sheets provide pupils with opportunities to develop their descriptions of characters, settings and atmosphere and integrate dialogue into their stories to convey character and advance the action. 'Try this' boxes and 'Word' boxes provide support for pupils and, with support from the teacher, will help them realize how selecting the appropriate grammar and vocabulary can change and enhance meaning.

Similarly, for non-narrative pieces, the way the sheets are formatted encourages pupils to think about how they will structure their writing and what organizational and presentational devices they will use to make the meaning clearer.

When pupils have finished their writing, they should be encouraged to re-read 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. Encourage drafting and redrafting. 'Try this' boxes focus pupils' attention on particular aspects, eg the consistent use of tense throughout a piece of writing and correct subject and verb agreement.

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:

- Where would you like to be? (page 15) – adjectives
- What would you do? And Under the sea (pages 16 and 30) – conjunctions
- What does scared feel like?, What does sad feel like?, What does angry feel like? And What does happy feel like (pages 17–20) – first vs third person voice
- A lot to say (page 23) – prefixes
- Understanding clauses (page 25) – main clauses
- Continuing clauses (page 26) – subordinate clauses
- Space story (page 29) – apostrophes
- Cityscape (page 31) – synonyms and antonyms
- Take one friend (page 32) – prepositions
- Build a world (page 33) – homophones

Find your expertise



This is me. I am really good at ...

Polish your vocabulary by using a thesaurus to find even better words than you already have. Check spellings and edit.

Read aloud and 'perform' your self-confident writing in front of your group, class, school, staff and visitors during an assembly.

Try this:

Make your self-confidence shine through your writing. Be modest and don't boast, explain how you came to be so proficient. End with a satisfactory conclusion.

Discuss things that are natural for some people but not for others.

Using bullet points

What's a bullet point?

Take a piece of text, read through it and decide which are the main points/features. Take these out and put them in order as single sentences next to a round bullet below.

Think: I'm a witch/wizard. I can change things. What shall I change?



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Check and edit your work. Watch out for spelling errors. Change vocabulary by looking for stronger synonyms (a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another; happy, joyful, elated).

Try this:

Write a piece of recount text and then take it apart and put as much back as you can into bullet points.

Talk about the usefulness of bullet points for making clear and concise points in a piece of writing. Channel ideas for the theme and then use bullet points as jumping-off points to start a narrative.