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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 (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 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. In brief (page 29) will help children learn to précis a piece of writing. Several sheets, eg I would like to thank ... (page 33) and Five alive (page 34) focus on writing in paragraphs.

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:

- Use a thesaurus (page 28) – synonyms and antonyms
- What would you do? (page 31) – present tense and first person voice
- Write a biography (page 32) – third person voice
- I would like to thank ... and Five alive (pages 33 and 34) – writing in paragraphs

How to write a script

"Let's write a play for our leaving assembly."

A script tells everyone on stage, including the stagehands, what's happening when. Plan it like this:

Think of a
suitable name

Title:

Characters
are named.

Cast:

Susan, Henry, Aunty Maud, Bentley the butler etc.

Plays are divided
into scenes or
happenings.

Scene 1:

The living room

A narrator sets
the scene making
scene changes
easier.

Narrator:

It is a dark and stormy night at the old mansion.

All dialogue is
written without
speech marks.

Character 1:

Character 2:

Character 3: etc

Directions, tell
you how a
character speaks.

Character 1: (Laughing)

Character 2: (Frightened)

Scene 2:

Outside

Narrator:

The ferocious storm has knocked out all the power.

Character 1:

Character 2:

Read some play scripts through with the class and give out parts. Stress the need to stick to convention, so that when the script is learnt nobody goes astray. Demonstrate with whole-group works using this page as a basis.

Sentence buzz

Every piece of writing starts with a single sentence. If the sentence is good enough you can carry on!

Even one word can give you the writing buzz!

Try one of these as a starter.

"A UFO! ..."

"You can't do that!"

That was the moment the lights went out.

The hamster's escaped!

What's that?

Frogs!

Try this:

Choose from the starters. Decide whether to write a story, a play, a recount, a discussion or something else! Plan on scrap paper first. Don't worry about spelling or punctuation. Write out your ideas, then check and edit.

Try and fit in a 10/20 minute session at some point every day, just to get the children used to writing without thinking too hard. Use separate notebooks as a writing journal to 'flex' the writing muscles. No need to mark, the object is to get the brain writing from scratch!