

Creative Writing

What Is Creative Writing?

Creative writing includes writing stories, poems and plays. It helps children develop their grammar and punctuation skills as well as their stamina for writing (i.e. how long they can sustain a piece of writing for).

In year 3, your child should be beginning to plan and structure their creative writing so that it has a clear beginning, middle and end as well as a sound storyline (plot). Your child will also learn how to create settings and characters using a broad range of adjectives (describing words) and powerful verbs (action words).

As your child's confidence increases, they will begin to write longer pieces of creative writing using a broader vocabulary and grammatical devices to enhance the effectiveness of their writing on the reader (e.g. using speech punctuation to show what characters are saying). They may also start to learn and recognise figurative language (words that create an image in the reader's mind), such as similes – comparisons between two things using the words 'like' or 'as':

He was as sly as a fox.

The star twinkled like a diamond.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with creative writing, here are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise their creative writing skills at home.

Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Stop at points in the book you're reading with your child and ask them to describe what might happen next. Can they create their own ending to the story?

Every Picture Tells a Story

Use story telling prompt cards to encourage your child to make up their own story. Pick a character, setting and a plot idea and create a story from the pictures.

Be Inspired by an Object

Find something intriguing or unusual around the house, such as an old boot or a family photograph. Make up a story involving the object. If it could talk, what would it tell you? Who did it belong to and what happened?

Write a List Poem

List poems are just that, a list of words or phrases to describe a subject. Think of a theme, such as a 'rainy day' or 'summer'. Think of the most powerful words and phrases and create a list poem to describe the chosen theme.





Step 1

Creative Writing at Word Level

By year 3, your child will have explored different types of words, such as verbs (action words), adjectives (describing words) and adverbs (how the action is happening). In lessons, they will be taught to use the most 'powerful' word they can in their writing. For example, instead of using 'the man was afraid,' they will be encouraged to write 'the man was terrified'. You can practise choosing words for maximum impact and broaden your child's vocabulary with this presentation.

Creative Writing at Sentence Level

As your child increases in confidence, they can begin to explore how to maximise the effectiveness of their writing on the reader. They can practise transforming ordinary sentences into powerful ones using alternative verbs, adjectives and precise nouns (e.g. instead of writing 'dog', they could write 'poodle'). Similes are a fantastic way to create an image in the reader's mind by comparing two objects using the words 'like' or 'as'.



Step 2



Step 3

Story Openers and Settings

Your child will now be experimenting with ways to write a gripping story opening and setting. Settings set the mood and tone of the story, for example a description of a girl walking through a deep, dark wood at night sets a completely different mood to a description of the same girl walking along a country lane in the sunlight. These checklists can help your child think about story settings and openings, encouraging them to use their senses to describe what is happening.

Characters and Character Descriptions

A good story needs credible characters. Support your child to enhance their character writing skills with these activity sheets that encourage young writers to describe the personality, looks and feelings of the characters in their story.



Step 4



Step 5

Planning a Structure and Plot for Writing

At this stage, your child will be learning how to plan and write a structured story with a storyline, or plot, that flows through the story and makes sense. 'Story maps' and 'story mountains' are often used as a visual aid for children to show clear progression through the narrative with a beginning, build up, problem, resolution and end.

Editing and Evaluating Writing

Once they have written a piece of creative writing, at this stage, children should be able to edit and suggest improvements to their work in order for it to have maximum impact on the reader. They should also be able to proofread their writing to check for spelling and punctuation errors. This editing pack contains a range of resources to help your child read through and improve their writing.



Step 6