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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 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 3 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 Plan sheets (pages 43–46) 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 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:

- The real 'You' and What's fun (pages 7–8) – using first and third person voice
- Whose dream? (page 11) – adverbs
- Best place ever, What makes you angry?, Build your confidence and In the rainforest (pages 12, 18, 21 and 39) – adjectives
- Can you ... ? (page 15) – use of the indefinite articles 'a' and 'an'
- What makes you smile? (page 16) – parts of speech
- What makes you laugh? (page 17) – conjunctions
- Magic powers (page 22) – prepositions
- Picture this (page 25) – speech marks
- Three-legged race (page 28) – using second person voice
- Dead Man's Island (page 29) – verbs