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Introduction

These series of planning sheets aim to provide a structured resource which gives plenty of scope for exploring and collecting ideas in the different writing genres: adventure, fantasy, recount, letter, poetry etc. They generate discussion within a defined framework and then aid pupils to write more descriptive stories and compose longer pieces of writing.

Reluctant writers or those writers who struggle with the organization of their ideas can express themselves with more self-assurance by using these planning sheets. Confident writers can also benefit by delving into them to gain further ideas.

Some sheets can be written on directly but many are designed as a prop to refer to when writing. Vocabulary sheets are incorporated with some stories to help the flow of ideas.

Story mountain and mind map templates are included to assist narrative and descriptive writing and to cater for different learning styles. Visual learners have lots of imaginative ideas but might struggle with the sequence of events or the bare skeleton of the story so can benefit from using the story mountain approach. Logical systematic learners can sequence ideas but might struggle to develop them creatively and can benefit from using the mind map templates to expand descriptive writing.

I have specialized in the field of learning support since 1997 when I gained a diploma in specific learning difficulties. I am especially interested in promoting creative writing skills with children who are reluctant writers or who struggle with the organization of their ideas. These series of planning sheets generate discussion and aid in structuring composition in the different writing genres. They also can be used to give further ideas to confident writers as well. I have found that they have been successful in giving pupils greater self-assurance to express themselves in written form and have helped to make writing an enjoyable experience!

On page 5 you will see how the activities in the book link to the 2014 National Curriculum for England. On page 6 there are suggested writing targets. The way I use these is to cut out the relevant one(s) and tape them to the top of the sheets prior to copying, so that pupils have the targets in front of them as they work.

Links to the National Curriculum

The sheets in **Boost Creative Writing** will help Year 3 and 4 pupils to develop their composition skills, as set out in the National Curriculum for England (2014).

Composition

The sheets in **Boost Creative Writing** help pupils to plan their writing, by providing a structured format for discussing and recording their ideas. Some sample pieces of writing are given, but pupils would benefit from discussing and analysing the structure, vocabulary and grammar used in other similar texts.

All pupils, but especially SEN pupils, will find it very beneficial to have the opportunity to talk about what they are going to write prior to doing so, as often pupils' writing ability lags behind their speaking ability. Composing and rehearsing sentences orally, prior to writing, helps them to build a varied and rich vocabulary and encourages an increased range of sentence structures.

The sheets in this book can be used to help children to become aware of, and start to use, features of writing. In narratives, the structured format of the sheets encourages them to think and talk about the setting, characters and plot. Similarly, for non-narrative pieces, the way the sheets are formatted encourages pupils to think about how they will structure their 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 contain suggested vocabulary to encourage children to extend their range of vocabulary and prompt them to use new words in their writing. The activities can also be used to reinforce children's understanding of grammar and punctuation, but this is not the primary purpose of the sheets.

Suggested writing targets

To have an opening, middle and ending in my writing
To understand how to use paragraphs in my writing
To understanding the story mountain structure of narrative writing: opening, build up, climax, resolution, ending
To discuss and plan my story before writing using a story mountain or mind map
To use interesting verbs when writing the build-up part of the story
To use powerful adjectives in a description
To describe a character in detail
To describe a setting in detail
To use a range of adjectives, powerful verbs and adverbs to make the description sparkle
To understand the main ways authors use to start a story: setting, character, speech, statement
To write 3 different types of story starters, eg descriptions of character or setting or a question
To write an interesting opening paragraph with a hook to keep the reader interested
To check that I am writing in the same tense
To read over my writing, checking that I have put in capital letters and full stops
To use time connectives to start my sentences in different ways: Then... Suddenly... Next minute... Meanwhile... Eventually...
To use speech marks correctly and start a new line when someone is speaking
To use a repeating line in a poem
To plan and write an information booklet
To recount real events in the order they happened
To set out an address correctly and set out a letter correctly (both formal and informal)
To write a descriptive poem using personification or simile to paint an image in words
To use sensory description in my writing – What can you see? hear? smell? taste? How are you feeling?
To use connectives to elongate my sentences
To make up my own recipe using imperative verbs (bossy verbs)
To establish a different viewpoint in writing
To present different sides of a viewpoint