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Change your story

Writing for enjoyment

Writing prompts and ideas for the primary and secondary classroom

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Contents

Writing for enjoyment 2

How to use this resource: 2

Classroom writing games 3

Reception to KS1/P1 to P3 3
KS2 to KS3/P4 to S3 4

Writing for enjoyment prompts and ideas 6

Reception to KS1/P1 to P3: 6
KS1/P2 to P3: 7
KS2/P4 to P7: 7
KS3/S1 to S3: 8

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Writing for enjoyment

Reading for enjoyment is well established within education, seen both across policy and in the classroom, with the benefits of reading reaping huge rewards for pupils both at primary and secondary level. By encouraging writing in your classroom, you can hope to gain the same heartening rise in writing for enjoyment, as has been seen with reading.

Our research into children and young people's writing in 2025 found that:

- **Only 1 in 4 (26.6%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed writing in their free time – the lowest level recorded in the past 15 years**
- **Children and young people are motivated to write for a wide range of personal, emotional, intellectual, and social reasons, with creativity and self-expression being the most common ones**
- **While enjoyment of writing is low among many children and young people, clear pathways into writing still exist, especially when it involves autonomy and personal relevance**

To support enjoyment of writing, we have created a range of classroom writing games, prompts and ideas to complete with your pupils ages 4 to 14 to celebrate writing, reflect on reasons for writing and encourage everyone to find their own motivation and voice.

How to use this resource:



You may wish to run these activities across your literacy lessons in the week, on **National Writing Day (Wednesday 25 June 2025)** or at a time that suits writing for enjoyment in your classroom. Whatever works best for you and your pupils! The activities suggested are suitable for primary and secondary aged pupils and can be completed independently, in pairs or in small groups, both in the classroom or at home. The idea is to support pupils with writing and finding their own motivation and voice.

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Discussion questions:

Discuss the following with your class:

- *What is writing?*
- *Why do we write?*
- *How do you feel about writing?*
- *Why do you write?*

- Whilst discussing the questions with your pupils, create a mind map all about writing and their reasons and emotions towards it. You could come back to this at a different point in the year and see if their feelings have changed.
- You may wish to kick start writing for enjoyment in your classroom by providing pupils with a personal writing journal that can be used for free writing. Explain to pupils that the writing journal is theirs to keep, to write about anything they like without the pressure of their journal being checked, marked, or shared with others.
- Consider taking your pupils outside the classroom with their writing journal, perhaps to the school field, somewhere within the local community or even somewhere further.
- Encourage pupils to enjoy their surroundings and write in their journal to create a piece of writing. Younger pupils could be encouraged to write a list of words, or draw the things that capture their attention.
- Below are a range of classroom writing games, prompts and ideas to help get pupils engaged with writing for fun:

Classroom writing games

Reception to KS1/P1 to P3

Who is the character? (small groups)

- Describe a character to your class – you may wish to use a popular character pupils are familiar with.
- They are green... They are...
- *Can pupils guess who you are describing?*
- Now provide pupils with pictures of popular characters and ask them to describe this character. They are...

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- Ask pupils to write a sentence describing their character and support when possible.
- *They are…*
- Ask children to share their sentences. Can others guess who the character is?

What's in the bag? (whole class or small groups)

Place an item in a bag and have pupils feel the item. Ask pupils to say a word to describe the item and write this down for the group/class to see.



Can pupils guess what the item is in the bag after hearing all the adjectives?

Ask pupils to write a sentence using two of the words on the board in the spaces and support where needed.

In the bag, there is a __adjective__ , __adjective___ …

For younger pupils, work together to create a list of as many words which can describe the object once it has been seen.

What's the colour? (whole class or small groups)

- Describe a colour to your class or group, for example green.
- *This colour reminds me of a tall, long tree. This colour reminds me of the dark grass on a rainy day. This colour reminds me of…*
- Ask pupils their favourite colour. Create a list of as many words to describe one colour as possible.

KS2 to KS3/P4 to S3

Finish the story (groups of 3 to 6)

Invite pupils to write a story as a small group or as a class. You can follow the suggested structure below:

Pupil 1	Introduces a character (using adjectives to create a character description)

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Pupil 2	Introduces a character (using adjectives to create a character description)
Pupil 3	Explains the relationship between the two characters (where they met? how they know each other)
Pupil 4	Pupil 4: Creates a conversation between the two characters (using speech marks/split speech)
Pupil 5	Replies to the conversation between the two characters (using speech marks/split speech)
Pupil 6	Writes about what happens next

Sunny day/Rainy day

Ask pupils to write either a positive or negative sentence about an action that happens to a chosen character (this could be an imaginary character or someone famous such as Batman). The idea is that pupils would write: 'Batman gobbled a delicious burger and fries', the next person would then write a sentence with a negative twist 'The burger was rotten and make him sick', the next person then has to follow with a positive twist 'He got to spend a day in bed watching his favourite TV Show' and then so on.

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Writing for enjoyment prompts and ideas

The writing ideas and prompts below have been created to inspire writers of all ages to pick up their pencil or pen and write for enjoyment. Encourage your pupils to write creatively, with less thought about structure, grammar and spelling and more thought about enjoying the experience.

Although writing is the main outcome of these prompts, pupils may want to add illustrations, or display their work creatively. Encourage pupils to create pieces of writing they are proud of!

Reception to KS1/P1 to P3:

Engage with the writing activities below by discussing and creating a class model answer together. Older pupils may be able to complete the writing activity independently.



Self-registration

Ask pupils to self-register at the start of the day and after lunchtime. Be creative with how pupils can do this... you could ask a question for the pupils to answer yes or no to, ask them to vote for their favourite story from a chosen list, ask them to find a magnetic letter, write the first letter of their name or draw a face to show how they are feeling that day.

Write the first letter of your name with different tools

Encourage pupils to write out the first letter of their name or their name with different tools. Encourage younger pupils to explore and experiment with different mark making tools.

Write about a day out

What was it like? What did you see, smell, hear, taste and touch?

- I saw... it was...

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- I smelt... it was...
- I heard... it was...
- I tasted... it was...
- I felt... it was...

Write about somebody you love. *Why do you love them?*

I love my... because they are...

Writing prompts

- If I were an animal, I would be ... because...
- If I were a colour, I would be... because...
- If I could be a food, I would be... because...

KS1/P2 to P3:

- Write down all the questions you would ask a friendly monster who came to dinner.
- Write a letter to your favourite book character.
- Write about your favourite colour.
- Write about your best or worst day ever.
- Imagine you can fly, write about what you would do and where you would go.
- Write an acrostic poem for your name.

KS2/P4 to P7:

- Write about a superpower you would choose and how you would use it to help others.
- Imagine you found a magical key, what does it unlock? Write a story about the key and the adventures you could have.
- Write a list of excuses for being late to school - the more imaginative the better. This morning, I was late to school because...
- Write a diary entry for a day in the life of somebody famous.
- Write a poem about someone important in your life.
- Write about a new mythical creature.
- Write a list of April fools jokes and pranks.
- Create a wanted advert for a famous villain.

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KS3/S1 to S3:

- Imagine you are inviting someone around for dinner. They could be from the past, present or future. Why would you invite this person? What would you ask them? What would you serve them to eat? Who is this person to you?
- Write a story about a futuristic world where technology has taken over.
- Create a dialogue between two people who have opposing personalities/opinions.
- Listen to music or watch a video/film clip and free write whatever comes to mind.
- You have just won a prestigious award. This might be in sport, drama or for a ground-breaking discovery, you choose! Write an acceptance speech for this award.
- Imagine your own world. What is in your world? Who is in your world? Where is your world? How did your world come to be? Write about your world.
- Write a Haiku about anything you wish without giving away what this object, event or thing is. Show and tell your Haiku and have others guess what you may be writing about.

A haiku is a Japanese verse poem that has three lines, with each line having a certain number of syllables: 5,7,5.

You can explain syllables to your pupils by having them place their hand under their chin and saying a word. The number of times their chin touches their hand is the number of syllables in the word. Superman makes your chin touch your hand 3 times.

Su – per - man

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