

# Year 5 Creative Writing: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to creative writing can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring creative writing together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is still experimenting with story writing and the creative writing process, or they are confident with their creative writing abilities and want to grow their skills, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Every step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

 

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Creative Writing

## What Is Creative Writing?

Creative writing includes writing stories, poems and plays. It can help 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 5, your child should be planning and structuring their creative writing so that it has a clear beginning, middle and end as well as a sound storyline (plot). Your child will also be creating detailed settings, setting the mood, tone and atmosphere of the piece of writing. Character descriptions should be detailed and dialogue (speech) between characters should advance the action and help the story 'flow'.

By year 5, children will be writing longer pieces of creative writing using a broad vocabulary and literary devices to enhance the effectiveness of their writing on the reader. For example, they are likely to use figurative language (words that create an image in the reader's mind), such as similes, metaphors and personification.

**Similes** are comparisons between two things using the words 'like' or 'as':

He was **as sly as** a fox.

The star **twinkled like** a diamond.

**Metaphors** are also comparisons between two things but instead of using 'like' or 'as', they infer that something is something else:

My teacher **is** a dragon.

The snow **is** a white blanket.

**Personification** is where you give a non-human object human characteristics:

The tree **waved its branches**.

The wind **whistled down the chimney**.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested 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?

### Write from a Different Point of View

Ask your child to think of a story they know well, for example Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Ask them to write the story from a different point of view, for example Baby Bear. How did Baby Bear feel? What did he/she do?

### Rapid Writing

Find an inspiring scene or picture on the Internet. Set the timer for 10 minutes. See what you and your child can write independently during that time; it can be a setting description, a story starter or a poem inspired by the picture. Compare your writing at the end of the 10 minutes.

### Step Into a Character's Shoes

Think of a character in a book that your child likes. Can they step inside that character's shoes and write a story from their point of view? Can they write a continuation or a sequel to a story they've already read featuring that character?



## Step 1

### Creative Writing at Word Level

By year 5, your child will have explored different types of word class, 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 effective word they can in their writing, for example, instead of using 'the man walked slowly down the street,' they will be encouraged to write 'the man traipsed listlessly down the street'. They will also be learning a range of connectives to ensure their writing 'flows'. You can practise choosing words for maximum impact and broaden your child's vocabulary with this word mat pack.



## Step 2

### Creative Writing at Sentence Level

As your child increases in confidence, they should continue to think about using words and phrases which will 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. writing 'dachshund' instead of 'dog'). The use of similes, metaphors and personification (figurative language) is also a fantastic way to create an image in the reader's mind and bring writing to life. Take a look at this activity to help your child develop their use of figurative language in their writing.



## Step 3

### Story Openers and Settings

Your child will now be striving to write gripping story openings and settings as a hook to get the reader interested. Settings set the mood, tone and atmosphere of the story, for example a description of a girl walking through a misty graveyard at night sets a completely different mood to a description of the same girl paddling in the waves as she walks along a beach in the sunshine. These activity sheets can help your child think about how to write effective story settings and openings as they are encouraged to use their senses to describe what is happening in detail.



## Step 4

### Characters and Character Descriptions

A good story needs vibrant and believable characters. You can encourage your child to enhance their character writing skills with these word mats which offer a range of higher-level vocabulary for young writers to use when describing characters, feelings and settings.



## Step 5

### Planning a Structure and Plot for Writing

At this stage, your child will plan and write a structured story with a plot that flows throughout the story and makes sense more confidently. Story mountains and maps are often used as visual aids for children as they create progression through the narrative with a beginning, build-up, problem, resolution and end. This pack is perfect for supporting your child to write an adventure story.



## Step 6

### Edit, Evaluate and Perform

In year 5, children will continue to build on their proofreading skills, making changes to words and phrases to improve their impact on the reader. They can then go on to create their own compositions, using appropriate intonation and movement to enhance meaning. You can encourage your child to practise their proofreading skills with this activity pack, designed to help them spot common mistakes.

# Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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twinkl  
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!