

Year 4 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. Each 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 creating detailed characters and settings for a story, or recognising and creating different forms of poetry, 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. Each 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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?

Your child will explore their imagination and inventiveness through writing stories, traditional tales and different types of poems. Creative writing gives your child freedom to use their skills and apply them to entertaining forms of writing. They will understand that the purpose of fiction and poetry is to entertain the reader and make them think.

During year 4, your child will start to plan out stories in much more detail. They will create detailed settings, thinking clearly about how the setting will affect the course of the story and if it matches the theme of the narrative. For example, if they are writing an ancient Viking myth, a setting of space wouldn't work, so they must create ones that are relevant to ancient myths. At this stage, your child will create more complex characters - with a history, descriptive physical appearance, emotions, motivations, strengths and weaknesses.

Your child will have looked at some simple forms of poetry, such as acrostics and shape poems earlier in primary school. Over the course of year 4 (and further into upper key stage 2), your child will discover and explore different forms of poetry. They will begin to use free verse and narrative poems. They will also begin to explore types of poetry that have specific rules, such as kennings and haikus.

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

Read, Read, Read!

To help your child become more familiar with different types of poetry, you could try reading a wide variety of poems together. Talk about the poems and discuss what images and creative language is used in them. What effect do different words have on the reader?

Role on the Wall

To help your child get used to identifying the many features that make up a character, have a go at creating a 'role on the wall'. Choose a character from a story, TV series or film, then draw an outline of the character on a piece of paper. On the outside of the outline, your child can write as many things as possible that describe the character's appearance. On the inside of the outline, your child can write as many things that describe the character's personality and emotions.

Simile Hunt

A simile is a figure of speech that compares one thing with another thing. For example, the car flew as fast as a bullet along the road. The car's speed is being compared to a bullet leaving a gun. While you are out and about with your little one, try comparing things with other things. See how many similes you can create.

Syllable Count

To help your child to recognise and count syllables, try creating your own syllable band. Through clapping, clicking or stamping, your child can create a sound to accompany each syllable of a sentence. When reading a story together, encourage your child to count the number of syllables in a sentence, by clapping, clicking or stamping.



Step 1

Character Descriptions

In year 4, your child will start to plan stories and narratives in much more detail. They will begin to think carefully about settings, characters and plot. They will record these plans in a variety of different ways, such as character and setting descriptions, mind maps and pictures. They will understand that stories follow a plot and that things that happen in the beginning of narratives often affect what happens at the end. Your child could use these character description writing frames to begin creating the initial ideas for their lead characters.

Paragraphs

When your child begins to write longer narratives, they should separate the sections and events of their stories into paragraphs. They will begin to understand when to change paragraphs and what to include within a paragraph to make it entertaining and interesting to the reader. This includes the idea that when the time, place, topic or person changes in the story, a new paragraph should be started. For example, if your child is introducing the main character and where they live in the first part of the story, but they then move onto describing an event that is happening somewhere else (the place has changed), they need to start a new paragraph. This will help them to structure their stories in a more organised way - making them easier for a reader to access. You could try using a variety of display posters and cards to remind your child of when to change paragraphs and what to include to make them interesting.

Step 2

Step 3

Types of Poetry

As your child moves through (and beyond) year 4, they will explore a greater variety of poetry. From free verse poems (where your child has the freedom to create whatever they can think of), to poems with a tighter set of rules, such as kennings (where the poem is about a subject, but the name of the subject cannot be used in the poem) or haikus (a three-line poem, where the first and last lines have five syllables and the middle line has seven). Your child can explore metaphors and imagery as they create poems that are fun and illustrative. This pack can help you to explore different types of poetry with your child. It includes examples of different types of poem, features to include and ideas for what to write about.

Edit and Improve Writing

During year 4, your child will begin to focus on editing, improving and 'uplevelling' their writing. They will begin to assess their own writing; spotting features they like and think are effective while also making suggestions to change or improve their work. They will be able to identify the verb tenses (past, present or future tense) that they have used and spot any inconsistencies, correcting them as they go. For example, 'The wind was blows through the trees' becomes 'The wind was blowing through the trees'. You could use this editing pack to support your child to identify different things to check in their writing.

Step 4

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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Go!



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!