



OXFORD CHILDREN'S WORD OF THE YEAR 2018

Encourage your students to write their best story yet.

In the process of crafting a story children use both their writing and critical-thinking skills as they organise their thoughts to create a narrative. Writing stories enables students to develop an understanding of how grammar can be used in their writing and helps them to become better readers. Here are some creative ways to inspire creativity and get your students writing.

1. ORIGINALITY

HAVE YOUR STUDENTS BRING IN AN OBJECT FROM HOME

Ask them questions about it to inspire different story ideas:
Where did it come from?
Does it have magical powers?
What could it be used for?

USE A SCIENTIFIC FACT TO INSPIRE A STORY

For example:

Did you know that there are thousands of other planets outside our solar system?
What would life be like if people could live on another planet?

CREATE AN IDEA GENERATOR FOR YOUR STUDENTS TO USE

Build three separate lists:

1. **Genre** (e.g. adventure, thrillers, fantasy, animals & nature)
2. **Character** (e.g. hero, spy, unicorn, whale)
3. **Setting** (e.g. mountain, airport, forest, jungle, ocean)

Ask children to pick one item from each list and generate their own story.

2. CHARACTER

CREATE A LIST OF 20 DIFFERENT ADJECTIVES

Ask your students to pick three to describe the lead character in their story.

ASK YOUR STUDENTS QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR MAIN CHARACTER

Do they have any special talents?
Where is their home?
Who's their best friend?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Every lead character needs a memorable name! If your students are having trouble thinking up a name, get them to explore other sources such as books and movies, or encourage them to create a new name by playing around with letters and sounds.



**LESSON
PLAN**



3. LANGUAGE

THE USE OF SIMILES MAKES IT EASIER FOR READERS TO PICTURE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE STORY

Introduce the concept of a simile by discussing the following examples with your students:

1. As playful as a kitten
2. As boring as watching paint dry
3. As tall as a giraffe

CREATE YOUR OWN BLANK SIMILES

For example, (as cold as -----),
(as busy as -----)
and get your students to fill in the blanks.

CHOOSE A WORD SUCH AS 'HAPPY' OR 'SMALL', THEN GO AROUND THE ROOM ASKING EACH CHILD TO COME UP WITH A DIFFERENT SYNONYM FOR THE WORD

Let them use a thesaurus if they're getting stuck! The objective is to inspire children to move past the first word that comes to their mind.

4. PLOT

GET YOUR STUDENTS TO PICK THE OPENING SCENE OF THEIR FAVOURITE BOOK, BUT GIVE IT A TWIST TO CHANGE THE STORY

For example, what if Harry Potter had found out he was a secret agent instead of a wizard?

What other friends might Dorothy have found in the Land of Oz?

DEMONSTRATE TO YOUR STUDENTS THAT THE PLOT PROGRESSION OF A STORY CAN BE LIKE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN

Have them draw a mountain on a piece of paper and write the following labels so that they correspond to the shape of the mountain:

Beginning – Build-up
Challenge – Problem
Resolution – Ending

Tell students to use their story mountain as a framework for developing the plot of their story.



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