

# Year 6 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 needs practise with their story and creative writing skills, or they are confident with their creative writing abilities and want to grow their expertise, 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.

Creative writing at word level



Click here



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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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 to 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 6, your child should be thinking about identifying the purpose of and the audience for their writing. They 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 should also be able to develop and describe characters, settings and atmosphere while using speech (dialogue) to enhance characters and advance the plot.

By year 6, children will be writing longer pieces of creative writing using a broad and varied vocabulary and selecting appropriate grammar to enhance meaning. They should also incorporate literary devices to increase the effectiveness of their writing on the reader, for example using figurative language (words that create an image in the reader's mind), such as similes, metaphors and personification. For an explanation of these terms, take a look at the Year 5 Creative Writing: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents.

Your child should also be able to use a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and between paragraphs, i.e. linking their ideas and allowing their writing to flow smoothly throughout the story to ensure the meaning is clear. Cohesive devices include time connectives (e.g. first, next, after a while – words that convey a shift in time) and conjunctions (words that link ideas within sentences, e.g. and, but, or, so). Pronouns (words that stand instead of a noun that's already been referred to earlier, e.g. he, she, it, theirs) also add flow and sophistication to writing.

Finally, children at this level are expected to proofread their writing, checking for errors in grammar and punctuation as well as making suggestions for improvements.

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

### Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Encourage your child to read a wide range of fiction stories (e.g. historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction and issue-based stories). Can your child write a story in the style of their favourite author or write a sequel/prequel to an existing story?

### Sizzling Starters

Show your child an image from the Internet such as a deserted tropical island, the surface of another planet or a message in a bottle. Can they think of a sizzling starter to captivate the reader in seven seconds? Try thinking of an intriguing statement, a rhetorical question, dialogue or action and complete the first paragraph of the story.

Sign up to Twinkl Go! to access this fantastic **Creative Writing Stimulus Fantasy Hotspots** activity.

### Change the Mood

Write a sentence that describes someone doing something, for example: The young boy sat on the lounge carpet and looked at the old photograph. Can you change the mood of the sentence by changing the adjectives? How many different moods can you create each time – comic, frightening, calm, excited, heroic?

### Performance Poetry

Have fun reading, writing and performing poetry. What sound effects can you add, what movements could you make to convey meaning? Could you turn a poem into a rap or perform it as a song?

## Step 1

### Creative Writing at Word Level

In year 6, your child will continue to explore different word classes, such as adjectives (describing words), adverbs (where, when and how the action is happening), nouns (naming words) pronouns (words that stand in place of a noun) and prepositions (words used to describe where things are in time and space, e.g. under, beside). In lessons, your child will be taught to use the most effective words they can in their writing. For example, instead of writing 'The man got into the car', they will be encouraged to use precise nouns, powerful verbs and adjectives to make sure the words they choose have maximum impact. By changing words in this way, the sentence could read, 'The powerful and portly wizard squeezed into the dilapidated four-wheeled drive car.'

## Step 2

### Creative Writing at Sentence Level

As your child's writing skills increase, they should be encouraged to use a range of literary devices for effect. The use of figurative language creates a picture in the reader's mind and includes the use of similes (comparing two things using the words 'like' or 'as'), metaphors (comparisons where you say one thing is another) and personification (giving non-human objects human characteristics). Hyperbole (exaggerated statements) and symbolism (using symbols to represent ideas) are also powerful tools to give a more creative tone to writing and engage readers further. This sorting game is a great way for your child to consolidate their understanding of the different types of figurative language.

## Step 3

### Story Openers and Settings

Your child will now be striving to write intriguing story openings and settings as a hook to get the reader interested and engaged with their writing from the start. At this level, children are encouraged to think about the audience and purpose of their writing. They are encouraged to set the atmosphere, tone and mood of their writing by using carefully chosen vocabulary and detailed description. This presentation contains useful hints and tips on how your child can create suspense in texts.

## Step 4

### Characters and Character Descriptions

At this stage, your child should be encouraged to write detailed character descriptions using dialogue to convey personality and character traits. You can encourage your child to enhance their character writing skills with this activity pack which gives young writers the opportunity to edit and improve a piece of writing. They can then use the skills they've learnt in their own writing.

## Step 5

### Planning a Structure and Plot for Writing

At this stage, your child will plan and write a detailed story with a storyline (or plot) that flows throughout the story and makes sense. 'Story maps' are often used as a visual aid for children to show clear progression through the narrative with a beginning, build-up, problem, resolution and end. The more detail included in the story map the better, for example speech bubbles could be included to show key dialogue.

## Step 6

### Edit, Evaluate a Perform

In year 6, children will continue to build on their editing and proofreading skills, making changes to words and phrases so that they have maximum impact on the reader. They can then go on to perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation and movement to enhance meaning. This proofreading resource pack is an excellent way to encourage your child to re-read and improve their work.

# 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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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!