

# English

---

CREATIVE WRITING AND WORD PLAY

---

This week, we shall be getting our creative juices flowing. We will work through a variety of activities and we will use the ideas that come out of these to: write short poems, try some descriptive writing, give feedback to writers, do some artwork and finally publish a piece of work.

# Day 1

---



Activity 1: Make a list of places

Think and list as many different type of places as possible – the more the better!

Top tip: think generic places e.g. station, city, street, forest, attic etc.

One way of doing this could be putting them into categories.

<b>Water</b>	<b>Where people live</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Outer space</b>
lake	town	shed	moon
river	house	supermarket	planet

## Activity 2: Make a list of abstract nouns

---

Before you start your list, it might be worth brushing up on some of your nouns:

- **Concrete nouns:** the general names for people, places and things that you can see/touch/taste/smell etc. e.g. *ball, table, grass, pony, child*
- **Proper nouns:** special names starting with capital letters e.g. *Sarah, Dr Foster, Spain*
- **Collective nouns:** a word for a group of animals, people or things e.g. *gang, swarm, crowd, pair*
- **Abstract nouns:** something that exists but you cannot see/touch e.g. *love, dream, fear, hope*

For your task, we need lots and lots of abstract nouns!

Here are some to get you thinking:

---

Happy feelings: *hope, love, joy, friendship, happiness,*

Sad feelings: *regret, pain, doom, sadness, dread,*

Fantasy: *curse, premonition, vision, dream, nightmare,*

Attitude words ending in -tion/-sion: *determination, ambition, trepidation, passion, confusion*

Question? Is the word happy an abstract noun?

---

The man felt very *happy* as it was his birthday.

Here the word happy is an adjective as it is describing the man.

We can change it into an abstract noun though by adding a suffix:

Happy = happiness.



**Now over to you to make your list of abstract nouns. If you're stuck, magpie from the ones above or ask your family if they can think of any.**

### Activity 3: Making your first combinations

Now the fun part! Choose one word from each of your lists and put them together to create an interesting combination. For example:

<b>Places</b>		<b>Abstract Nouns</b>	<b>Combinations</b>
church	+	love	The church of love
village	+	dreams	The village of dreams
station	+	pain	The station of pain
tunnel	+	hope	The tunnel of hope
river	+	anxiety	The river of anxiety



Now make as many combinations as you can!

Top Tip: You could choose ONE setting and then combine it with 5-10 abstract nouns and see which one surprises, entertains or interests you most.

*The school of doom*

*The school of laughter*

*The school of determination*

*The school of hope*

*The school of fun*

*The school of dreams*

*The school of pride*

*The school of friendship*

*The school of possibilities*

## Activity 4 : Try some alliteration

Let's make some more combinations, but now, can you try and make them alliterative. For example:

---

*The cave of curiosity*

*The temple of terror*

*The office of honesty*

*The motorway of mischief*

*A star of sorrow*

*The fairground of fear*



**Now have a go at your own alliterative combinations**

## Activity 5: Judging your ideas

Now you have generated your list, it is time to start judging which of your ideas stand out.

Which ones might surprise our reader?

---

Which ones have you never heard before?

Which ones immediately conjure up an image in your mind's eye?

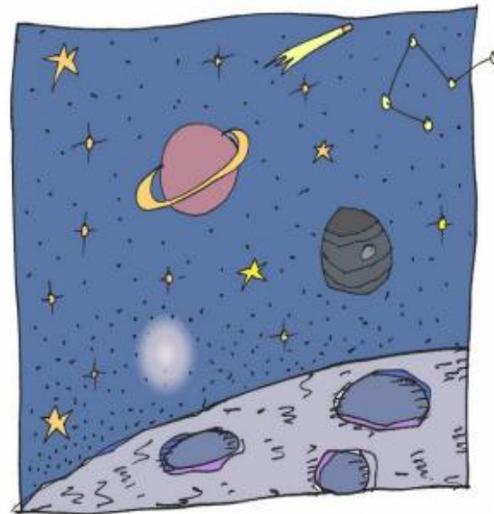
Write down your top 10 and make a brief note of why you have chosen them.

# Day 2/3

Activity 1: Create a simple list poem

---

Have a go at writing a simple list poem using your 10 or so favourite ideas. You could base your poem on a theme e.g. happiness, sadness or space. Why not add some illustrations to make your poem come to life!



## Space

The planet of doom  
The star of freedom  
The black hole of light  
The moon of isolation  
The galaxy of hope  
The universe of infinity  
The sun of nightmares  
The solar system of confusion

★ Now have a go writing your own  
simple list poem



## Activity 2: Looking at a model poem

---

### **The Cave of Curiosity**

---

In the cave of curiosity, I created  
an angry ant ambling along,  
a terrified tarantula tickling a tornado  
and a curious computer calling cautiously to the King.

In the cave of curiosity, I created  
the sound of silence closing its lips,  
a hummingbird's wings flickering,  
as the sea silently scrapes the pebbles and ten tired lorries trundle by.

In the cave of curiosity, I created  
the touch of smooth stones from the summer beach,  
the stickiness of honey on a fingertip  
and the heat from a teaspoon as it stirs my morning tea.

In the cave of curiosity, I created  
the coldness of frost as it freckles the windowpane,  
the sharpness of a saw as it crunches through wood  
and the sadness of a tear as it trickles down a cheek.

In the cave of curiosity, I captured  
the moon's cold gleam imprisoned in a box,  
the joy of a merry-go-round as it spins like a feral ferris wheel  
and the force of a rainbow as it dazzles the sky with a smile that stuns.

© Pie Corbett

1) Which is your favourite word, line or verse? And why?

---

---

2) Which line would you like to change? What would you change it to?

---

---

3) Which part of the poem did you find scariest, saddest or most unusual?

---

---

4) Find a part of the poem that uses alliteration really effectively.

---

---

5) Write Pie a short piece of feedback about his poem. It could follow this structure: 1. Give some praise 2. Offer some advice 3. Ask a question



**Now have a go at responding to Pie's poem.**

### Activity 3: What is it like in your place?

Here we are telling the reader what might be in your place, what would happen if you went there, or how it got its name.

---

Example: **The castle of curses**

The castle of curses is home to all evil in the kingdom.  
The castle of curses looms over the city forever watching.  
Once you enter the castle of curses, you can never escape.

★ Now try adding all the ideas together and creating some powerful verses.  
Here's one example – as you can see, I've been influenced by the lock down.

*I walked softly into the forgotten city of silence, staring at  
empty streets, abandoned shops and scary emptiness.*



★ **Top tip: Remember poems don't have to rhyme – and they're often more powerful if they don't!**

# Day 4

Activity 1: Try some juxtaposition

---

Juxtaposition – having two opposite ideas next to each other.

This can often surprise the reader as they might not be expecting it or have never heard it before.

The sun of darkness  
The dungeon of love  
The black hole of light  
The cave of dreams  
The waterfall of pain



**Now have a go at coming up with some ideas that use juxtaposition.**

## Activity 2: A poem with a repeating pattern

For this poem, you will need a repeating phrase chosen from one of your previous ideas. Here are some examples:

---

### **I Got Lost**

**I got lost in the** castle of curses and never came out,  
**I got lost in the** maze of confusion as....  
**I got lost in the** land of dreams where....  
**I got lost in the** field of fear because....

### **In the Castle of Dreams**

**In the castle of dreams** there are....  
**In the castle of dreams** you will....  
**In the castle of dreams** no-one....  
**In the castle of dreams** I.....

Now have a go at writing your own repetitive poem.

# Day 5

## Activity 1: Writing a descriptive paragraph

---

Read the example below and then try writing your own descriptive paragraph.

### **The City of Silence**

I took a trip to the city of silence where the streets were silent and no-one could utter a word. Cars passed by me without a sound and songless birds flew overhead. My feet didn't even make a sound on the pavement when I walked: it sounded as if everything was made of cotton wool or had had the volume turned down to zero. I tried to talk to the people but I couldn't even manage a squeak. An evil lord ruled over the city and had cast a spell on the people making it impossible for them to talk. Who could save them from this terrible fate? And who could save me?



**Now have a go at writing a paragraph about one of your combinations.**

## Activity 2: Artistic challenge

One of your ideas might really stand out to you as a great setting to bring to life by drawing/painting. Choose one of your ideas and sketch out what it might look like there.

---

Below is an example for *The forest of premonitions*:

