

Key Stage 3 Creative Writing Course

This exciting and enjoyable 10 lesson course is aimed at students in the first few years of secondary school. It covers skills from the National Curriculum Course for Key Stage 3 in the United Kingdom.

The curriculum for this course includes a range of stimulus reading material to help students enjoy reading creative writing and to give them ideas and inspiration to create their own original creative pieces. The course includes opportunities for reading comprehension as well as creative writing, and there will also be literacy and grammar practice and tasks to practice using poetic devices. Students will also have plenty of scope to practice speaking and listening.

The course includes opportunities for students to read a range of creative writing examples, such as poetry and extracts from famous novels, and to write for audience and purpose. They will experiment with using a range of creative writing techniques and write their own poems, descriptions and stories. In the second half of the course students will read a short story by Roald Dahl, in order to study the techniques used, including a classic narrative arc structure. Students will then plan and write their own short story, and practise drafting and redrafting until a final piece is presented at the end of the course, which will be formally graded according to the criteria from the UK national curriculum.

Each lesson starts with an introductory starter activity which will have a literacy, grammar or poetic technique focus. They will then read several kinds of texts and identify techniques which they can use to plan their own short pieces to complete at home. This foundation work will set them up for planning and writing their own original short story.

Lesson	Topic	content
1.	What is creative writing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explore different types of creative writing using a range of extracts - creative thinking exercises - creative writing exercises
2.	Understanding poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - poetic terminology - Read a famous poem by John Keats and analyse the techniques used. -Write your own poem about another season
3.	Writing poetry – it doesn't have to rhyme!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of poetic devices and focus on imagery - read two poems – 'Mushrooms by Sylvia Plath' and 'The Eagle' by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Analyse the imagery - write own poem about a similar topic
4.	Performance Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch/listen to some performance poetry (e.g. Maya Angelou, John Agard, John Cooper Clarke) - How to read poetry aloud - Practise reading your own poem aloud using performance techniques
5.	Plays – all the world's a stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is theatre? - features of a playscript - Read a short playscript 'Little Red Riding Hood' -Design the stage set for a modern production of the script
6.	Plays – writing a script	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Features of a playscript - Plan your own modern version for Little Red Riding Hood -Write your own playscript
7.	Setting – creating an atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of sentence structures and subordinate clauses - read extracts of descriptions of imaginary worlds from literature (e.g. Alice in Wonderland, The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter etc.) - write a description of an imaginary place
8.	Character – making your characters come alive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of adjectives and adverbs to describe people - read descriptions of famous/colourful characters from literature (e.g. from Dickens, Roald Dahl, C.S. Lewis etc.) - write a character description

9.	Plot and narrative – what makes a good story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of sentence punctuation, including direct and reported speech - read a fairy tale (e.g. Little Red Riding Hood) and identifying the structure, using storyboarding - plan your own fairy tale using storyboarding and pictures
10.	Writing for audience and purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review use of paragraphs for accuracy and effect - recap audience/purpose/form - read a short children's story for under 5's and identify language use and style specific to audience - plan and write own story for children under 5
11.	Writing your own short story: Read <i>Lamb to the Slaughter</i> by Roald Dahl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenses review – present simple or present continuous? Short stories and novellas - Roald Dahl biography - Read the story together in sections - answer comprehension questions
12.	Writing your own short story: understanding story structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenses review – present perfect or past simple? symbolism - Break down <i>Lamb to the Slaughter</i> into parts - Understanding the narrative arc - how to build tension in a short story
13.	Writing your own short story: planning your story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenses review – past simple or past continuous? - using the narrative arc and other ideas from the course, plan your own short story using scaffolding - write a rough draft
14.	Writing your own short story: drafting your story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show not Tell starter activities - work on your characters - practise describing the settings and building atmosphere - redraft your story (complete for HW)
15.	Writing your own short story: experimenting with language and style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenses review – past perfect and continuous or past simple? - discuss the draft of story and how to improve – style, language use, poetic devices, accuracy, textual cohesion, descriptive writing etc. - a series of exercises to experiment with making improvements - write second draft (complete for HW)