

Key Stage 3 English Language Fiction Writing Course

This comprehensive course of ten lessons covers character, setting, structure, detail, openings and endings: everything you need to prepare for writing your own piece of extended creative writing.

The unit is targeted towards KS3 students who will soon be undertaking GCSE English Language and includes National Curriculum English Writing Objectives, as well as GCSE English Language Assessment Objectives.

The course ends with a short, GCSE-style assessment and mark scheme. It's a great way to engage with the GCSE English Language curriculum!

What are the elements of a good short story?

When approaching your own short story, you should have a clear sense of character, setting and plot. Understanding structural conventions, and how these can enhance your writing, is also useful. Additionally, you should have a great hook to engage your readers straight away – make them want to read on! Creative writing can be immensely rewarding, and practice makes perfect, so don't be afraid to experiment and keep trying out new ideas.

Each class will explore a different aspect of fiction writing.

Each lesson is 2 hours.

Lesson	Topic	Content	Student Activities
1.	Opening	In this lesson, students are introduced to openings from stories; they explore what makes a captivating opening, and apply	To consider how we get hooked into stories. To analyse the techniques used by writers to open their stories. To create my own story opening.
2.	Characters	To create a detailed and convincing character description.	To consider what makes a rounded character. To analyse how character introductions from literature are effective. To write my own character introduction.
3.	Character Types	To understand the character types found in narratives and apply that knowledge to my own writing.	To understand Propp's character types. To identify examples of these character types. To apply these character types to my own writing.
4.	Settings	To create a detailed and believable setting for a story.	To consider how to describe a setting. To analyse how a setting in a literature extract is effective. To write my own scene description.
5.	Story Structure	To understand how stories are structured and how that structure can be subverted.	To consider how stories have traditional structures.

			<p>To explore the ways in which writers subvert these structures.</p> <p>To create a narrative structure for a well-known story.</p>
6.	Language Structure	To understand how structuring language and text can impact meaning.	<p>To identify how structural techniques can impact on effect in a text.</p> <p>To consider how language structure can be used to create a character voice.</p> <p>To rewrite a piece using structural devices.</p>
7.	Inspiration	To practice developing ideas from small inspirations to short stories.	<p>To understand the importance of using personal experience in fiction writing.</p> <p>To exaggerate, elaborate and explore ideas to make them engaging for a reader.</p> <p>To plan a piece of writing based on an inspirational idea.</p>
8.	Adding details	To practise extending fiction writing by adding in detail.	<p>To understand the need for detailed, extended writing at GCSE.</p> <p>To identify techniques writers use to extend their writing.</p> <p>To write an extended fiction paragraph.</p>
9.	Conclusion	To understand what makes a satisfying and appropriate conclusion to a story.	<p>To understand the need for detailed, extended writing at GCSE.</p> <p>To identify techniques writers use to extend their writing.</p> <p>To write an extended fiction paragraph.</p>
10.	Assessment	To complete an English Language writing assessment.	<p>To create a story which shows awareness of structure at both narrative and text level.</p> <p>To include interesting and believable characters.</p>

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