



Parent Guide

How can I use this with my children?

Get writing with these fun ideas and techniques for short stories, descriptions, or even a novel. Use them any way you like - put them in a hat, work through them one by one or let your child choose.

How does this help my children's learning?

Creative writing is a fun way for children to express themselves, but sometimes they need inspiration to develop their ideas and improve the way they express them - that's where these cards come in!

Ideas for further learning:

Don't focus too much on spelling and grammar while your children are practising their creative writing. This is more about letting their imaginations roam free. They can always go back and edit later.

Creative Writing Lucky Dip

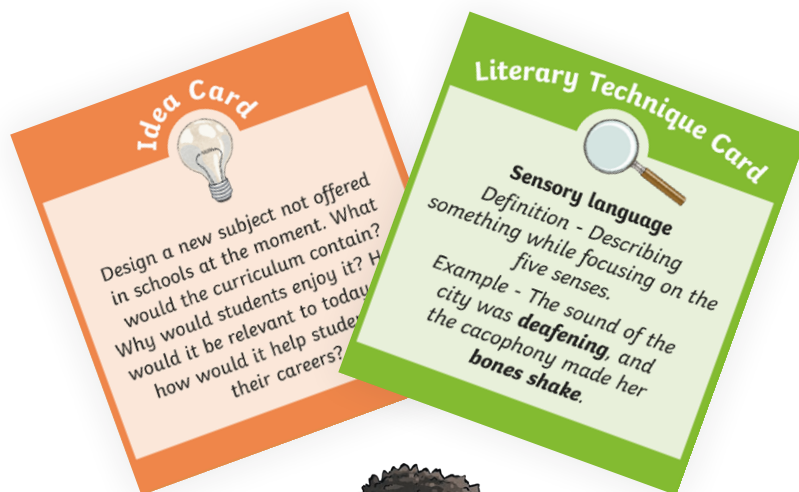
Instructions

Get your child to select one 'ideas card' that will form the basis of their piece of writing. How you select an idea is up to you and your child - they can randomly pull one from a hat, choose their favourite, or you can even work through each one.

If you want to make it slightly trickier, get your child to choose one of the 'literary technique cards' as well. They then need to include this literary technique in their piece of writing at least three times. This is a great way for children to develop their own writing skills, as well as recognise these techniques when they are analysing others' writing.

If you'd like to add a little structure to the exercise, you can introduce a time limit (5 minutes would be fine for a paragraph of writing), or a word limit (200 words is a good starting point).

Make sure to laminate the cards if you'd like a more durable resource to use over and over again.



Literary Technique Card



Metaphor

Definition - describing one thing as something else without using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Example - My bedroom **is a pig sty**.

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Literary Technique Card



Simile

Definition - describing one thing as something else using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Example - Her hair was **as black as midnight**.

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Literary Technique Card



Alliteration

Definition - repeating the same letter at the start of consecutive words.

Example - The **big blue butterfly** was the prettiest they'd ever seen.

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Literary Technique Card



Personification

Definition - describing an inanimate object by giving it human qualities.

Example - the old car **wheezed and snorted** as it drove up the winding road.

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Literary Technique Card



Hyperbole

Definition - exaggerated descriptions of things.

Example - They took enough food on the picnic to **feed an entire army**.

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Literary Technique Card



Onomatopoeia

Definition - Naming or describing something from the sound it makes.

Examples - The bee **buzzed** its way around the garden.

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Literary Technique Card



Sensory language

Definition - Describing something while focusing on the five senses.

Example - The sound of the city was **deafening**, and the cacophony made her **bones shake**.

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Literary Technique Card



Idiom

Definition - A word or phrase that means something other than what it's actually saying.

Example - The student added **fuel to the fire** when he answered back to the teacher.

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Literary Technique Card



Noun phrase

Definition - Using one or more adjectives to describe a thing.

Example - The **large, blue, noisy bus** rumbled up the hill.

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Literary Technique Card



First person

Definition - Telling a story from the writer's point of view.

Example - **I** went to the shop and bought some ice cream for dinner.

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Literary Technique Card



Past tense

Definition - Telling a story as if it has happened in the past.

Example - When the girl **got** home from school, she did her homework.

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Idea Card



Describe walking around a haunted house without using the words 'dark', 'creepy', 'spooky', 'haunted' or 'ghost'.

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Idea Card



What is something you are sure you will never forget about the age you are now, and why?

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Idea Card



Write a conversation between two friends after a terrible day at school without using the word 'said'.

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Idea Card



Invent a new superpower. It has to be one that has never been used before - no flying, time travel or laser eyes!

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Idea Card



Choose ten random words from a dictionary and write a short story, making sure you include all the chosen words.

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Idea Card



Choose an historical event, person or time period that should be made into a television drama. Why have you chosen this? Who would you choose to star in it and why?

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Idea Card



Describe an imaginary planet. Each sentence should start with a different letter of the alphabet. For example, **A** beam of green light illuminated the ground. **B**easts of all types roamed the fields. **C**ockroaches that were ten-feet tall were the biggest of them all.

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Idea Card



Invent a fifth season of the year. Give it a name and then describe it. For example, you could create the season of unbalance, when everything falls over.

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Idea Card



Design a new subject not offered in schools at the moment. What would the curriculum contain? Why would students enjoy it? How would it be relevant to today, and how would it help students in their careers?

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Idea Card



A picture frame falls out of the sky. Explain why this has happened and describe the result.

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Idea Card



Start a story with 'I fell down a hole, and what I found down there changed my life.'

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Idea Card



Describe a fox without using the word 'fox', 'vixen' or 'foxes'. Can your family guess what animal you are talking about?

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Free Parents' Taster Pack For children Aged 7 - 11

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