



Section 2

Developing writing

The activities in this section prompt children to expand and develop their ideas about issues they might like to write about, develop a main character, create supporting characters, decide on and create a realistic setting, and develop convincing dialogue. The children will draw on their experience of the genre gained from the extracts in Section 1, their own reading and their own experiences of different real-life issues.

The activities provide scaffolded support for developing plot, character and setting. They also generate ideas and vocabulary for realistic stories, and encourage children to develop an appropriate writing style, making use of description, dialogue and action.

Plot

There are opportunities to explore different pathways for plotlines using trigger ideas.

Setting

Children are given opportunities to choose and develop different realistic settings for their stories and to explore how descriptions of settings can help to convey a character's feelings and predicament.

Character

Children focus on developing key characters through description and dialogue and use drama and role play to improvise and develop dialogue.

How to use the activities

Each activity is accompanied by detailed teachers' notes giving guidance on delivery, including how to use the photocopiable pages at the end of the section and the materials on the CD-ROM. Children are encouraged to experiment with a variety of forms. There is strong emphasis on class or group discussion and role play throughout this section. This will help children get to the heart of issues they are exploring and to empathise with their characters, as well as developing speaking and listening skills. The activities can be adapted to suit different class situations. They should be modelled for the whole class or smaller groups, before children are asked to undertake independent work.



Activity breakdown

Plot

- Issues (page 20)
- What's the problem? (page 20)
- Story openings (page 21)
- Work it out! (page 21)
- What's going on? (page 23)
- Plot pathways (page 23)

Setting

- Settings (page 22)

Character

- Create a character (page 22)
- How does it feel? (page 24)
- Talk, talk (page 24)