

INNOVATIVE **LITERACY** IDEAS

for busy teachers



Kevin & Belinda Cummins

Welcome

Hi, and thank you for downloading this ebook. As a teacher with over a decade of teaching experience I have had the opportunity to work with many students and teachers globally. My wife and I constantly see many great ideas put into place to assist elementary or primary students to become improved readers and writers.



Over that time we have been fortunate enough to either put these plans into action or assist others in making their ideas come to life.



This book is a collection of ideas which we hope every teacher will find both innovative and effective in teaching their students to improve literacy skills, but also an avenue to generate your own new methods and ideas to share with others.

This book contains a number of links to free digital resources. Feel free to print the book out. Obviously it will be far more versatile as a digital document.

You will find hundreds more ideas and resources at our website edgalaxy.com - [Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers](#). And remember everything there is, as always, completely free.

Furthermore, if you have any great ideas and resources you would like to share with us please do not hesitate to contact us and remember that we do pay 'REAL' money for your great ideas and resources which are probably sitting idle on your hard drive. [Check it out here.](#)

Anyhow I hope you enjoy these resources and teaching ideas and if you find this book useful feel free to share it with others.

Enjoy.

Kevin and Belinda Cummins

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3 Fresh Ideas for Reading Group Rotations



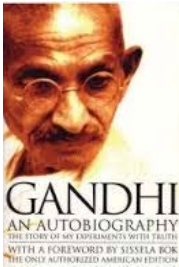
Independent reading group activities are a great opportunity for students to get creative and share their insights into a particular text whilst you, the teacher conference with other students or groups to assist them in areas of need around reading.

For this to work effectively the students completing the independent reading tasks need clear instructions with engaging tasks, and the teacher needs to be well prepared.

These three activities are part of a collection of thirty reading group rotation ideas you can download for free [here](#)



Text Timelines: Create a timeline which includes either the events in the text you are reading or historical information of the time in which the book is set. Try using Post-it notes on a whiteboard, butcher paper or digital mind mapping tools such as [Popplet](#) or [Google Drawings](#).



Autobiographies: An autobiography is a style of writing in which the author tells the audience personal details about their life. Select a character from your text and write a passage in which they recount some of the more important moments from their life.



Mobles: Draw anywhere from 3 to 5 images from the text you are reading. On the back you might choose to write a brief explanation of your picture. Using string, straws and a hole punch put it all together and hang it from the ceiling.

20 Things to do Before, During and After Reading.




The following collection of reading activities first appeared in the *The English Teacher's Companion* by [Jim Burke](#). They are excellent ideas to engage students with texts. Jim has 103 of these which can be found in his books about teaching English more effectively. Check out a sample of his ideas below.

- **Pantomime** a scene you choose or choose a class favourite.
- **Dramatic monologue** for a character in a scene: what are they thinking/feeling at that moment--why?
- **Business Card Book**: write the story in the most compelling way you can on paper the size of a business card.
- **Postcard**: write to a friend about this book; to the author; to a character in the book; write as if you were the character or author and write to yourself.
- **Mapmaker**: draw a map of the book's setting.
- **Moviemaker**: write a one page "pitch" to a producer explaining why the story would or would not make a great movie.
- **Billboard**: as in the movies, take what seems the most compelling images and create an ad.
- **Adjective-itis**: pick 5 adjectives for the book or character(s), and explain how they apply.
- **Haiku/Limerick**: create one about a character.
- **Roundtable**: give students a chance to talk about what intrigues, bothers, confuses them about the book.
- **Fishbowl**: impromptu or scheduled, 2-4 students sit in middle of circle and talk about a text; the class makes observations about the conversation then rotate into the circle.
- **Dear Author**: after reading a book the student(s) write to the author via the publisher (who always forwards them).
- **Surf the Net**: prior to, while, or after reading a book check out the web and its offerings about the book, its author, or its subject.
- **Mandala**: create a mandala with many levels to connect different aspects of a book, its historical time, and culture.
- **Transparencies**: copy portion of text to transparency; kids annotate with markers and then get up to present interpretation to class.
- **Gender-Bender**: rewrite a scene and change the gender of the characters to show how they might act differently (e.g., *Lord of Flies*); can also have roundtable on gender differences.
- **Picture This**: bring in art related to your book's time or themes; compare, describe, discuss.
- **Downgrade**: adapt myths or other stories for a younger audience; make into children's books or dramatic adaptation on video or live.

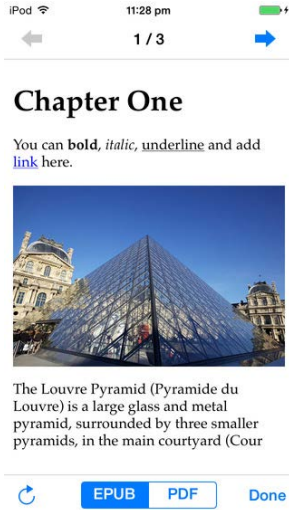
- **Draw!:** translate chapters into storyboards and cartoons; draw the most important scene in the chapter and explain its importance and action.

Useful iPad Apps for Improving Literacy Skills

 <p>Adobe Voice</p>	 <p>See your story move with cinematic animation.</p>	<p>Voice helps you create stunning animated videos in minutes. No filming — just talk to tell your story. Pick from over 25,000 beautiful iconic images to show your ideas and Voice automatically adds cinematic motion and a soundtrack. Persuade, inform and inspire anyone online. Make an impact.</p>
 <p>Puppet Pals HD</p>		<p>Create your own unique shows with animation and audio in real time!</p> <p>Simply pick out your actors and backdrops, drag them on to the stage, and tap record. Your movements and audio will be recorded in real time for playback later.</p> <p>This app is as fun as your own creativity. Act out a story of Pirates on the high seas, fight as scary monsters, or play the part of a Wild West bandit on the loose. You can even combine any characters however you want!</p>
 <p>Imagistory</p>		<p>Bring your students imagination to life with Imagistory! A wordless picture book app that encourages anyone to be the storyteller, no matter what your age or language.</p> <p>Designed for children aged 3 and up, the idea behind the app is simple, using wordless picture books it's up to you and your child to use your imaginations to create a story with the pictures. The stories you create can be recorded and saved so you can listen to them again later and share them with others.</p>



[Creative Book Builder](#)



Creative Book Builder enables everyone to create, edit and publish ebooks in a few minutes on the go.

All published ebooks can be read by any EPUB reader including iBooks. Everyone is professional writer now! Besides EPUB, you can export your book into PDF, audio and video format.



[Educreations](#)



Educreations is a unique interactive whiteboard and screencasting tool that's simple, powerful, and fun to use.

Annotate, animate, and narrate nearly any type of content as you explain any concept. Teachers can create short instructional videos and share them instantly with students, or ask students to show what they know and help friends learn something new.



[Poetry Creator](#)



Ever wonder what it would be like to mash-up a Shakespeare poem with a Hip Hop Song? Verses is a new iPhone and iPad app that puts a fresh spin on a cherished classic: refrigerator magnet poetry.

Verses's limitless word mixing possibilities that allow you to become a kind of dictionary DJ.

After creating a poem out of your own personal mix of dictionaries, you can send your creation to friends via email or publish it in your Facebook photo album!



[Notability](#)

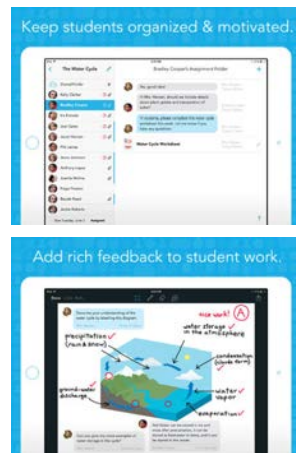


Notability is a powerful note-taker to annotate documents, sketch ideas, record lectures, and more, on iPhone, iPad, and Mac.

Notability is the one place to create, share, and manage your notes. It combines handwriting, typing, audio recordings, and photos so you can create notes that fit your needs. And with iCloud support, your notes are always available anytime. Anywhere.



[Showbie](#)

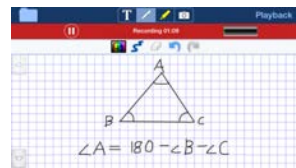


Go paperless in your classroom! With Showbie, you can quickly and easily assign, collect and review student work on your iPad, then provide rich feedback to your students by adding annotations, text notes and voice notes directly onto their documents.

Students can show their learning creatively by submitting to Showbie from thousands of compatible iPad apps, or by completing assignments with Showbie's built in tools. Showbie keeps everyone organized with individual student assignment folders, email and push notifications.



[AudioNote](#)



AudioNote combines the functionality of a notepad and voice recorder to create a powerful tool that will save you time while improving the quality of your notes. It's the perfect app for students or business.

By synchronizing notes and audio, AudioNote automatically indexes your meetings, lectures, interviews, or study sessions

Each note acts as a link directly to the point at which it was recorded, taking you instantly to what you want to hear. Didn't take any notes during the lesson? No problem, you can add them later.

Unlock the Potential of Google Forms and QR Codes



Google forms is a game changer for teachers and students who need to collect data in a strategic yet simple manner.

The ability to create a Google form within minutes and collect real time data is unimaginable for teachers who see this in action for the first time. Seeing the results in spreadsheets, charts and graphs instantly is amazing.

However, in my eyes, the delivery of that form to an audience can sometimes be poorly managed which we will address through the use of QR codes.

QR codes offer a simple way for students, parents and teachers to access these forms via their mobile device or other, giving your forms greater impact and uptake from your intended audience.

If you have never seen a QR code then check out [this video](#). These odd little symbols allow you to access anything on the web if you scan them with a QR code app on your phone or tablet. [This video](#) explains how to create your own QR code in a matter of minutes.



Just remember that this is a two step process. [The first is creating a useful form](#) and the second is creating a catchy method of delivering your [QR code linking to the form](#).

56 C Reading Log

The purpose of this form is to create a record of what is being read at home. Please ensure that you answer all questions and complete it by Friday morning for correction.

*Required

Student Name *

Name of Book *

This book is ... *
 Fiction
 Non-Fiction

How much did I read *
 Less than 50 pages
 50 - 100 Pages
 Over 100 Pages

List three words that you were challenged by. *
These are words I either didn't understand or are new to me. Separate words with commas.

2 interesting facts I learnt from this text were... *

Student Reading Log via Forms and QR code: OLD SCHOOL VS. NEW SCHOOL...

Old School Student Reading Log: So, you are sick and tired of chasing student diaries to see if they have done any reading this week. Hopefully mum or dad has signed off to say this has occurred.

Not only does this method offer little to improve your understanding of where your students are at, it is highly

inefficient considering the alternatives available to you now through simple technologies such as Google Forms


New School Student Reading log: First Create a Google form, This can be done within a couple of minutes. [If you have never seen or made a Google Form check this out simple video tutorial.](#) When creating it make sure it actually informs you and your students about what they are reading at home and what is challenging them about that text. Here is an example of [what I am talking about.](#)

Your students might complete this form once per week, and instantly you have an ongoing digital trail of everything they have read throughout the year and furthermore you can use this information to provide future learning opportunities based around their answers to these questions. Simply access the spreadsheet that is generated from your Google Form and you will see who has read, and what their insights were about it.

You might use the challenging words section of your form as the basis for a future test or study task.

To ensure your students can access the form in a simple manner you can create a note that gets stuck on the fridge, or a bookmark which students can access and complete on any mobile device. An example of these can be seen below.

Welcome to our online reading Blog.




This term we are trialling using an online reading blog instead of our diaries. This will allow teachers and students the opportunity to track what is being read and what needs to be learnt about reading more effectively.

It is very easy to access. Simply enter the web address below or scan the QR code and complete the log directly from your mobile device.

A QR code reader can be downloaded to any smartphone or tablet and simply links you to our reading log.


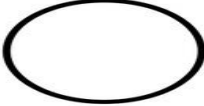
Please ensure you have your reading log completed by Friday morning as we will be collecting them then.

goo.gl/ZvLTu5



Name: _____

I can read books that are...



Scan to look up a book title, level, amount of points and if there is a corresponding test.

Access Engaging Lesson Ideas and Resources Through TED-Ed



TED-Ed is a brilliant collection of short animated films designed by world renowned educators to teach specific skills and concepts to students of all ages.

It is a must see for teachers and students and is broken into four parts for use in the classroom

- Watch (view the content)
- Think (Questions and answers about the content.)
- Dig Deeper (Learn more from elsewhere)
- Discuss (Directions for guided discussion)

The great thing about TED-Ed videos is that nearly all of them are under 10 minutes in length. So in a standard one hour session you can easily watch the content and then do something meaningful with the content by either following the associated lesson plans or resources or simply doing your own thing.

The 10 most popular TED-Ed Lessons



Questions no one knows the answers to - Chris Anderson
[12:08](#)
[Play now](#)



How sugar affects the brain - Nicole Avena
[5:03](#)
[Play now](#)



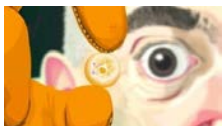
How simple ideas lead to scientific discoveries - Adam Savage
[7:32](#)
[Play now](#)



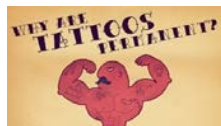
Should we eat bugs? - Emma Bryce
[4:52](#)
[Play now](#)



The loathsome, lethal mosquito - Rose Eveleth
[2:40](#)
[Play now](#)



Just how small is an atom? Jonathon Bergmann
[5:28](#)
[Play now](#)



What makes Tattoos Permanent? Claudia Aguirre
[4:26](#)
[Play now](#)



Are Elvish, Klingon, Dothraki and Na'vi real?
[5:21](#)
[Play now](#)



Why is yawning contagious? - Claudia Aguirre
[4:30](#)
[Play now](#)



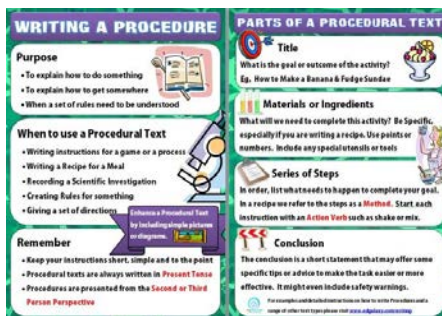
Why do we cry? The three types of tears - Alex Gendler
[3:59](#)
[Play now](#)

Free Classroom Posters to Teach Your Students About Reading and Writing.

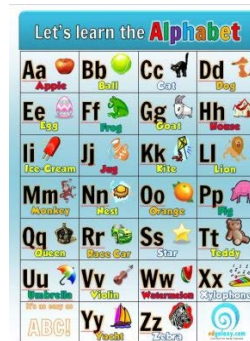
An engaging classroom should be a good looking one. And nothing starts a great looking classroom off more effectively than posters which look great and contain content that will inform and inspire teachers and students.

You may or may not be aware that there are thousands of excellent completely free posters available on the web for you to simply download, print and hang.

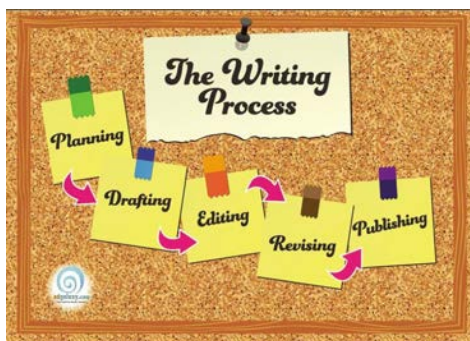
Below is a selection of awesome literacy posters which are part of this ebook package but you can also get your hands on over 100 high resolution classroom posters completely free [here](#). No strings attached. No signups...



[Click here to download this free poster about writing a procedural text.](#)



[Click here to download this free classroom alphabet poster](#)



[Click here to download this free writing process poster](#)




[Click here to download over 100 free classroom posters](#)

Free Useful Graphic Organizers for Teaching Reading and Writing

Using graphic organizers helps students make connections in the classroom. Venn diagrams and other graphic organizers are designed for comparing and contrasting to help students make connections between texts, characters and other elements of literature.

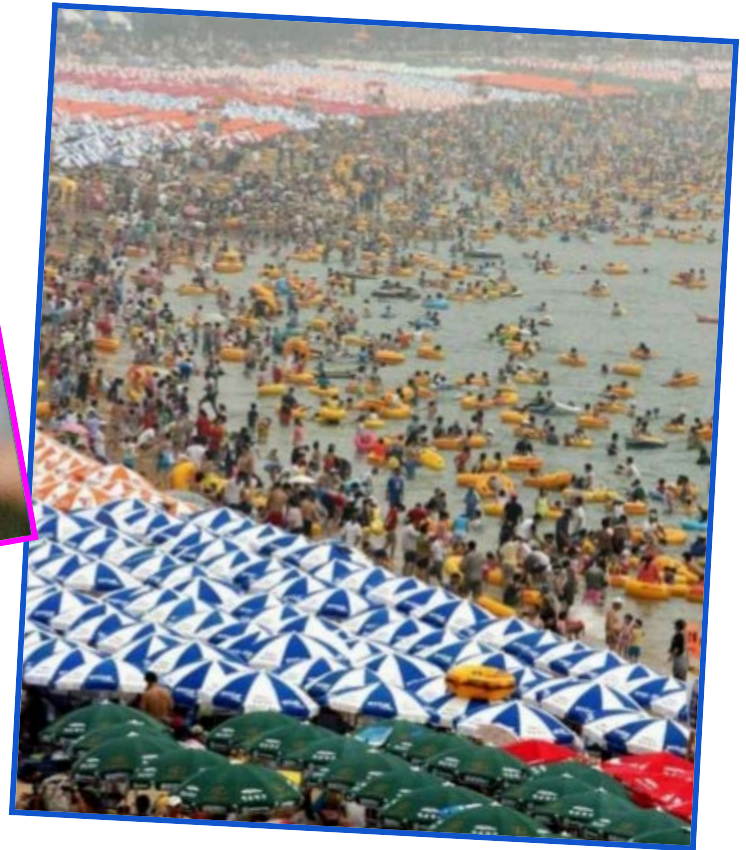
Cause-and-effect graphic organizers help students see how events in a story are connected, thereby improving their comprehension of a text. Concept maps boost students' critical thinking skills as they begin to understand how different subtopics connect to a topic as a whole.

<p>Name of Text _____</p> <p>As you read your text see if you can find the answers to each of these questions.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Who?</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>What?</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Where?</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>When?</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Why?</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>How?</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><small>© www.edgalaxy.com - Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</small></p> <p>Click here to download this thinking tool to assist students to better understand texts</p>	Who?		What?		Where?		When?		Why?		How?		<p>Explanation Writing Checklist</p> <p>Evaluate your explanation writing using the checklist below. You could even swap your work with a friend and evaluate each others!</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="2">In my writing I have used:</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"><i>Punctuation</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Capital letters</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Full stops</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Question marks</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"><i>Vocabulary</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Technical vocabulary</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Time connectives - next, later...</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Causal connectives - so, because, when...</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Correct spelling</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Underlined technical words</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>The present tense</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"><i>Layout of writing</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Started each page with a question</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Sub headings</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Labelled diagrams or pictures</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>A contents page</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>A glossary</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><small>© www.edgalaxy.com - Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</small></p> <p>Click here to download this explanation writing checklist.</p>	In my writing I have used:		<i>Punctuation</i>		Capital letters		Full stops		Question marks		<i>Vocabulary</i>		Technical vocabulary		Time connectives - next, later...		Causal connectives - so, because, when...		Correct spelling		Underlined technical words		The present tense		<i>Layout of writing</i>		Started each page with a question		Sub headings		Labelled diagrams or pictures		A contents page		A glossary		 <p>Printable Paper for all subject areas</p> <p>Download Now</p> <p><small>graph paper, grid, thinking tools, writing paper, themed paper, handwriting lines & more.</small></p> <p>Click here to access a huge collection of free graphic organizers and thinking tools.</p>
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Inspiring Visual Writing Prompts

A picture tells a thousand stories, or so we are told. Use these great images with your students to assist them to write a variety of text types. They are great for students who often suffer '*Writers Block*'





[Click here to access over 150 more incredible free writing prompt pictures](#)



Expository Writing Prompts for Students

Not all vacations involve travel, some can happen at home. So what defines a vacation? Is it the time of year, the people you share it with, or the routine that takes us out of your daily drudge.

In this exercise students use the prompts below to demonstrate their interpretation of Vacation! And it's meaning to them.

- Forgoing the usual: What did you do this summer? Ask your students to share with you a particular day from their summer vacation that stood out for them. Encourage them to use descriptive language that sets the mood and creates the environment for the reader.
- Many students complain that they don't get enough vacation time. Ask your students to explain why they feel they should get more vacation days.
- Have each student explain their holiday break and have them expound a tradition that they feel is unique to their family or culture.
- Your best friend is contemplating joining you on your Spring break vacation. Write a letter explaining why they should come with you
- Create a new holiday and write an essay explaining the new holiday and how it would be celebrated.



With a recent increase in popularity of children's books it's good to know to young people, once thought lost to reading, are still embracing novels with enthusiasm. After all what's not to like about curling up with a good book? Bonus, you can sit, lay, hide, anywhere - even in the bath if you're desperate.

Suggest the students use one of the prompts below to show their knowledge in relating a story about a situation, which has impacted on them using the written word.

- Choose one of your favorite authors. Write a letter telling why you like his/her work.
- Your class is making a class cookbook. Write an essay about your favorite recipe and why it should be included in the cookbook.
- Choose a book, CD or TV show you enjoy, write an essay telling the reader why you enjoy it.
- What is your favourite book? Write an advertisement that will convince your classmates to read it.
- The arts (music, art, drama, dance etc.) and sports have important effects on people's lives. Choose one of the arts or a sport and explain the ways it could shape and influence one's life.
- An author is taking suggestions for a new biography. Choose an author to base the new biography on and write a letter to the author explaining why they would make a good subject.

How to Write a Well Developed Paragraph



Breaking the monotony of five sentence paragraphs can be challenging. Students get in the habit of checking off their topic sentence, three supporting details, and conclusion sentence with a sigh. Unfortunately, what these students do not realize is that as they age, their paragraphs should too!

By encouraging students to use a variety of detail types in their writing, they will excel to new heights in their composition of a well-developed paragraph.

When practicing using these detail types, keep in mind that you may need to encourage students to make up believable statistics, quotations, etc.

The focus is NOT on research; the focus is on constructing well-developed paragraphs that break the elementary style of five sentences and done.

[Click here to download the resources and lesson plan.](#)

<p>Well-developed paragraphs</p>  <p>Essential Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAT MAKES A PARAGRAPH COMPLETE? HOW CAN I MOVE BEYOND THE BASIC FIVE SENTENCE PARAGRAPH? <p>Learning Intention / Overview</p> <p>Breaking the monotony of five sentence paragraphs can be challenging. Students get in the habit of checking off their topic sentence, three supporting details, and conclusion sentence with a sigh. Unfortunately, what these students do not realize is that as they age, their paragraphs should too! By encouraging students to use a variety of detail types in their writing, they will excel to new heights in their composition of a well-developed paragraph. When practicing using these detail types, keep in mind that you may need to encourage students to make up believable statistics, quotations, etc. The focus is NOT on research; the focus is on constructing paragraphs that are well-developed and break the elementary style of five sentences and being done. This is a great lesson to use following the "Detail types to strengthen 'novelty writing'" resource that is also available on edgalaxy.com.</p> <p>Methods / Teaching Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Instruction Differentiated Instruction Modeling <p>How might you customize or alter this lesson?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>© www.edgalaxy.com – Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</p>	<p>Key Learning Areas</p> <p>Parts of a paragraph</p> <p>Detail types</p> <p>Concepts Taught</p> <p>Paragraph Writing</p> <p>Target Age</p> <p>13-18 years old</p> <p>Duration</p> <p>2 x 45 minute Session</p> <p>You will need:</p> <p>Writing a proficient paragraph handout</p>  <p>edgalaxy.com</p> <p>Teaching Instructions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin the lesson by reading students a paragraph that has a basic five sentence structure (sample paragraph 1). 2. Follow that by providing them with an elaborated paragraph (sample paragraph 2). 3. Do not specify the differences between the paragraphs. 4. Ask students: how are the paragraphs alike? How are they different? 5. Sample answers may include: one is longer, one has more details, they are both about new forms of communication, etc. 6. Ask students to reflect on the paragraph that gave the clearest concept of new forms of technology. 7. Ask students: what is the topic sentence? what is the conclusion sentence? 8. Ask students to find an example of a statistic, personal example, historical example, fact, and quotation. (You may do this by distributing copies of the paragraph to each student or showing it to them using a multimedia projector.) 9. Explain to students that they too can develop paragraphs that clearly explain their topic, just like today's sample paragraph. 10. This will be a good time to distribute the "Writing a proficient paragraph" handout. 11. At this time, you will need to decide whether students will choose their own topic for their paragraph or assign the entire class a single topic. (I personally like to let students choose their own topics because it typically increases their motivation and provides differentiation.) 12. Once a topic has been chosen, students should feel out the "main idea" section on the handout. 13. Next, students will think about three supporting details to accompany their main idea. <p>© www.edgalaxy.com – Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</p>
<p>14. A detail type from the chart provided should then be used to further explain each supporting detail.</p> <p>15. Once students have brainstormed their topic, they are ready to use their main idea, supporting details, and further support to write a well-developed paragraph. Remind them not to forget their conclusion sentence.</p> <p>Sample Paragraphs</p> <p>Paragraph 1:</p> <p>The process of communicating has changed a lot. Writing letters, making phone calls, and visiting people has been greatly reduced. People are now focused on sending text messages, writing emails, or using social media networks to communicate. This has certainly increased the quantity and speed of communication. Undoubtedly, communication has forever changed because of technological advancements.</p> <p>Paragraph 2:</p> <p>The process of communicating has changed a lot. Writing letters, making phone calls, and visiting people has been greatly reduced. Whereas, I used to always write my grandparents a weekly letter, I now use Skype, an innovative technology, to communicate with them on a weekly basis. Approximately 75% of Americans now use some form of social media to communicate. Others are finding that text messages allow them to stay current with their friends and family members. On average, people send ten to twenty text messages per day. Without a doubt, communication is more technology based than ever. Can you imagine what Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, would say about how drastically the way we talk to others has changed? In the words of my English teacher, "Communicating is a lot simpler, which makes our bonds and family ties even stronger." Without a doubt, communication has forever changed because of technological advancements.</p> <p>© www.edgalaxy.com – Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</p>	<p>Outline for Writing a Proficient Paragraph</p> <p>What is your paragraph's main idea?</p> <p>Supporting detail 1:</p> <p>Further support of detail 1 (should be one of the eight detail types listed below):</p> <p>Supporting detail 2:</p> <p>Further support of detail 2 (should be one of the eight detail types listed below):</p> <p>Supporting detail 3:</p> <p>Further support of detail 3 (should be one of the eight detail types listed below):</p> <p>Detail types to strengthen 'novelty writing' (sample paragraph 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statistic: "Approximately 75% of Americans now use some form of social media to communicate." 2. Personal example: "Whereas, I used to always write my grandparents a weekly letter, I now use Skype, an innovative technology, to communicate with them on a weekly basis." 3. Historical example: "Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, would say about how drastically the way we talk to others has changed?" 4. Quotation: "Communicating is a lot simpler, which makes our bonds and family ties even stronger." 5. Fact: "On average, people send ten to twenty text messages per day." 6. Quotation: "Without a doubt, communication has forever changed because of technological advancements." 7. Personal example: "Others are finding that text messages allow them to stay current with their friends and family members." 8. Fact: "Communication is more technology based than ever." <p>© www.edgalaxy.com – Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers</p>

42 Activities for Students to do on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

Teaching Roald Dahl's classic "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is a guaranteed winner". Kids love reading the book, which is simple on the surface and can be finished within a week or two. Giving you a nice time frame to analyze it.

There are also two very diverse films that offer polarizing interpretations of the story. Both are enjoyable and valuable to watch to enhance the understanding the messages and morals of the story.

These 42 activities cater to all learning styles and will give students a great opportunity to work independently throughout a range of activities that are most relevant to them.

You can download the grid containing all [42 activities here](#)

Multiple Intelligences	Bloom's Taxonomy of the Six Thinking Levels Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory					
	Knowing	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	Creating	Evaluating
Verbal I enjoy reading, writing & speaking	Make a table of 10 ingredients that you would include in your ultimate chocolate bar. Explain why you have chosen this collection of ingredients.	Prepare a three minute talk about the outlining whether or not Mr Wonka is crazy... Or a Genius? Please show evidence from the films and / or text.	Write an explanation text about chocolate. Think about what it is from? How it is made? Why it is one of the most popular foods on the planet, and it's health facts	Write a snapshot as one of the characters from the book as they entered the Mr Wonka's Factory? What do they See? Feel? Hear? Smell? Taste?	Create a new script about when Charlie found his 'Golden Ticket' in front of his parents and grandparents. Print 3 copies and act out.	Choose 3 moments from the story and state which version of the 2 films or the book was most effective in getting its message across and why?
Mathematical I enjoy working with numbers & science	Create and graph the most popular types of sweets and chocolates in your class. Maybe suggest 8 or so options	Make a poster that visually demonstrates the amount of fats and sugars in a MARS bar. I.e.: Draw a life size Mars Bar and shade one colour for fats and another for sugars.	Estimate and justify mathematically how much money is spent on chocolate in Your Country each year. (Fermi Problems) Fermi Problems have no single answer, but you must be as accurate as possible in estimating.	Design a 2D and / or 3D model of Willy Wonka's chocolate Factory using paper from your classroom or Google Sketch-up on the computer.	Design and create a 3 Dimensional wrapper for your own chocolate bar. BE sure to include ingredients, nutrition panel and making visually appealing.	"A Mars a day helps us work rest and play" Or so we are told. How much exercise would we have to do to burn that mars bar off every day?
Visual I enjoy painting drawing & visualising	Create a collage / or comic strip to illustrate your favourite events from the book.	Make a picture story book of this story for a six year old. Your challenge is to tell the story in 10 pages.	Design a new front cover for the book or poster for a new film.	Use a Venn Diagram to compare two of the characters in the book.	Draw a bird's eye view of Willy Wonka's factory. Use evidence from the text to create a floor plan of what it might look like.	Draw all of the items Mr Wonka would carry in the pockets of his suit and tell us what he would need them for.
Kinaesthetic I enjoy doing hands-on activities	Create a 3D model of a machine that Mr Wonka might use in his factory to produce chocolates. It doesn't have to work – but explain what it should do?	Negotiate a task of your own with your classroom teacher. Be sure that they are fine with it first.	Using MAB, create Mr Wonka's factory and estimate the total volume of the factory	Teach another student the chocolate making process. Get materials and resources before you teach	Imagine that Mr Wonka and you have lost your tongue. Communicate to a friend how he would tour the children around the factory.	Research how many sit ups and push ups it would take to work off the calories in 1 Freda Frog. Do it and record whether you think eating the chocolate was worth doing the exercise for.
Musical I enjoy making & listening to music	Create your own Oomph Loma song about yourself as if you were a character in the book.	Record a Soundscape of Charlie's life in the cold winter days before he found the golden ticket. Use: Soungle.com	Write a song or poem about the story.	Write a commercial jingle to sell this book. Record your jingle on Audacity.	Research Danny Elfman and create an information report about his career. With a partner create a dance performance using one of Danny Elfman's songs.	Compare the music from the Willy Wonka soundtrack and the music from the Charlie and the Chocolate factory soundtrack. List the similarities and differences. Create a TV talk show segment of the interviewer talking to Charlie after he was given the factory.
Interpersonal I enjoy working with others	With a partner write a script for a conversation between two of the children as they were waiting for the gates to open.	Work with a partner to create a sequel to Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Plan the main points of the story. Must be at least 3 pages	Work with a partner to design a board game based on the book.			
Intrapersonal I enjoy working by myself	Describe what you would have done differently on the tour if you were Willy Wonka.	List 5 famous people you think Mr Wonka should have chosen to run his chocolate factory and why they would have been great at it?	Do you know of any other stories involving chocolate and / or sweets as its prime focus? What are they? Research, List and record them.	What do you think were Roald Dahl's motives for writing this story?	Go through your writing book and fish out your spelling words for the week.	Compare the two films using a VENN Diagram.



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Using Wikipedia as a Powerful Reading and Writing Tool



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia has really cleaned up its act over the last couple of years to become a far more reputable site than it gets credit for.

As a teacher I feel more confident in letting my students use it for researching general information as long as they are aware of the model upon which Wikipedia is built and recommend, hence, verifying a fact from a second source such as an .edu site.

The image is a screenshot of a worksheet. At the top, it says 'Wikipedia is a great reading resource for students who have access to a computer. Please spend 15 minutes on each area reading subjects that interest you. Record your findings in the boxes below as you will need to share your findings with your classmates in the final 15 minutes and select one piece of writing to later act on.' Below this are three sections, each with a title and a set of lines for writing:

- Text to Self:** Something that interests me – Record the facts from your research below. Includes a 'Who / What?' label and two questions: 'What was an interesting fact you discovered?' and 'What could you do with this information next in your writing?'.
- Text to World:** Something that is affecting our world today – Record the facts from your research. Includes a 'Who / What?' label and two questions: 'What was an interesting fact you discovered?' and 'What could you do with this information next in your writing?'.
- Text to Text:** Research a character, place or event from a book you have read. Includes a 'Who / What?' label and two questions: 'What was an interesting fact you discovered?' and 'What could you do with this information next in your writing?'.

At the bottom, it says '© 2011 www.edgalaxy.com – Cool stuff for Nerdy Teachers'.

I recently put this [activity and worksheet](#) together for my students to use in our reading hour to give them a platform for generating ideas for the writing hour. It works by using Wikipedia or any other great information sites you feel comfortable with.

Students have to spend 15 minutes researching something on Wikipedia which personally interests them. It can be absolutely anything. This covers the text-to-self element of the activity.

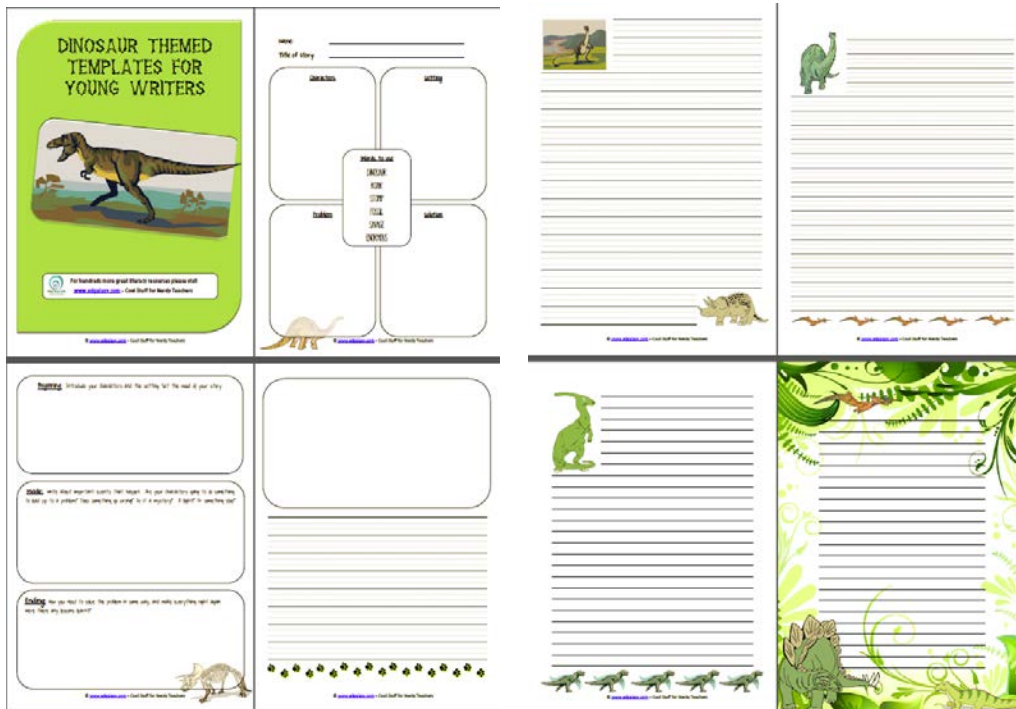
Secondly students will look at the Text-to-World element of reading for fifteen minutes by researching and reading about events that affect our world. This could be a recent event or an ongoing issue such as climate change.

Finally students will make a link to a book which they are currently reading by researching a person, place or event that is related to their text being read or maybe recently finished. When students have completed the 45 minutes of reading they bring their sheets back to the group to discuss what they have found and also outline one of the three writing ideas they generated by completing the attached wikipedia recording sheet.

The next phase of the task is to begin putting those writing ideas into action.

I hope you find this reading activity useful as research and comprehension task.

Dinosaur Themed Writing Pack for Young Students



I am sure that parents, students and teachers alike will find this free Dinosaur themed writing paper and templates a brilliant prompt and resource for getting younger kids writing about dinosaurs, or a dinosaur related adventure.

These themed writing packs really inspire kids to write and step up their presentation skills as opposed to simply writing on standard paper.

[Download the Dinosaur Themed Writing Pack Here.](#)

The Pack looks great, and has 8 different themed pages that include.

- A Visual map for planning the characters, setting, problem & plot.
- A planning tool for constructing a narrative.
- Half Page Dotted thirds with a space for a picture
- Full page themed dotted thirds with images.
- Bordered Themed lined writing paper.

Thankyou for taking the time to read this ebook.

The best thing you can do for us to say thankyou for this e-Book is to complete our five question anonymous survey. This two minute task means a great deal to us in better connecting with our readers.

[Access the Survey here](#)

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