

How do you 'up-level' a sentence?

Take a boring sentence...

'The man tripped over the dog.'

Make the sentence more exciting by adding ambitious words, better connectives, an exciting opener and changing the punctuation.

'Following a visit to his friend the old, wrinkled man crashed to the ground after he tripped over the matted and smelly stray dog!'

Can you find VCOP in this piece of text?

With fear and dread I crept cautiously down the dark, damp tunnel. My hands were eyes, nervously seeking the way by tracing the slime covered granite walls. Though I strained to hear and see, there was nothing...nothing but the sounds of my own strained breathing and the soft pad of my rubber-soled shoes.

Could you add another exciting sentence to this paragraph?

How can I help at Home?

Whenever your child is doing a task which involves writing, even if it is just 1 sentence, encourage them to use VCOP.

Children should not just be writing at school you can encourage them to write at home. Here are some ideas:

- Thank you letters
- Keep a diary
- Shopping list
- 'To do' list
- Postcards home on holidays
- E mails to friends and relatives



St Mary's

Church of England Aided Primary School



BIG Writing Information for Parents and Carers



What is 'BIG Writing?'

Big Writing is a teaching method which was devised by Ros Wilson. She has over 36 years of experience teaching writing and has conducted much research into the ways children learn best.

Her approach is based on:

Clear criteria for success

A straightforward method for teaching writing

Sharing and discussing pieces of writing

Up-leveiling sentences to make them more effective



At St Mary's we have a termly focus on writing:

Term 1 - The BIG Writing Methodology

Term 2 - Non-Fiction Writing

Term 3 - Fiction Writing

Term 4 - Non-Fiction Writing

'Non-fiction' covers types of factual writing such as:

- Recipes
- Instructions
- Explanations
- Persuasive texts
- Recounts
- Reports
- Posters
- Leaflets

'Fiction' writing covers types of imaginative stories such as:

- Humorous
- Scary
- Adventure
- Romance
- Personal
- Historical
- Crime
- Animal



What is VCOP?

V

VOCABULARY

C

CONNECTIVES

O

OPENERS

P

PUNCTUATION

When children are writing stories they can use the VCOP pyramids to help them to:

- choose exciting words (V)
- use a variety of connectives (C)
- use different sentence openers (O)
- use the correct punctuation (P)

