



Section 2

Developing writing

Developing fantasy story writing

These ten activities provide opportunities for children to explore the main genre features of fantasy stories, including:

- fantasy settings – children will draw and write about fantasy settings, predict who might live there and what might occur
- real-life and fantasy characters – children will create and describe a range of characters, using improvisation and role play to explore what characters might do and say in a variety of situations
- openings and endings – children will write story openings changing reality to fantasy and back to reality at the end
- typical events – children will analyse the sequence of events in different stories and develop original ideas for fantasy stories
- the interplay between fantasy and reality – children will explore the difference between fantasy and reality, and to combine them.



Activity breakdown

Setting

- 'Planet Zargus' (page 20)
- 'Zany zoo' (page 22)

Character

- 'Fantasy creature' (page 20)
- 'Make me a superhero' (page 21)
- 'Toy box' (page 22)
- 'Monster footprints' (page 23)

Plot

- 'Superhero saves the day!' (page 21)
- 'All of a sudden...' (page 23)
- 'Storyboard' (page 24)
- 'And finally...' (page 24)

How to use the activities

The teacher's notes for each activity give detailed instructions about how to deliver the activities. This includes how to use the photocopiable page that accompanies each activity and, where appropriate, how to use the interactive materials on the CD-ROM. The suggested activities and teaching approaches are very specific, but can easily be modified for the specific needs, learning styles and interests of a particular group of learners.

Developing imaginative ideas

Writing fantasy stories requires imagination and creativity. It is likely that some children will find it easy to create and develop fantasy characters, settings and events, while others will require more guidance. Encourage the children to draw on fantasy stories they have read or watched and use their own experiences as starting points for creative writing. Discuss their dreams and fantasies. Consider both scary scenarios and enjoyable fantasies, such as imaginary places they would like to visit, improbable events they would like to experience and imaginary characters they would like to meet. Give the children the opportunity to act out some of these scenarios in role play to develop their ideas.