

## How reading can promote writing for pleasure



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*“We often talk about reading for pleasure – good thing too – but in a way writing for pleasure is harder, and, I think, happens less often.” [Michael Rosen](#)*

In a previous [article](#) we shared the [strong evidence](#) that links reading for pleasure and [educational outcomes](#). One effect of encouraging reading for pleasure could be a child becoming more engaged across other subjects, including writing. The National Literacy Trust states that children who enjoy reading do better in their own writing.<sup>1</sup>

Promoting writing for pleasure in schools can occur in numerous ways, one of which is through a ‘writing for pleasure pedagogy’. Following a year-long research project aimed at defining and exploring this method in practice, writer-teacher Ross Young (co-founder of The Writing For Pleasure Centre) found that when writing for pleasure is taught proficiently, it is not just highly effective (classes make greater than average progress), it also has a positive affective relationship (classes enjoy writing and feel satisfied as writers).<sup>2</sup> One example of a way a school can encourage writing for pleasure is to follow Cressida Cowell’s [Free Writing Friday](#).

*‘Young writers also need to develop choice and inclination, deciding what they want to write about. In this way, writing becomes a vehicle for exploring and enjoying their own stories, fascinations, concerns and obsessions.’ [TalkforWriting, Writing for Pleasure](#)*

Some ways to change students’ attitudes towards writing could be allowing more freedom of choice in what they can write about, and focusing less on the spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting aspects and more on the content itself and sharing their work to build confidence.

We believe that through reading a wide variety of books and texts, children can improve their vocabulary and grow more confident with their own writing ability. To help you with this, we have collated a host of resources (page 2) and useful websites (page 3) that you can use with your students for their creative writing.

**Don’t forget to visit our [School Zone](#) for more articles and resources throughout the Summer Reading Challenge.**

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<sup>1</sup> National Literacy Trust (2016) Read On Get On Strategy  
[https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Read\\_On\\_Get\\_On\\_Strategy.pdf](https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Read_On_Get_On_Strategy.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Young, R., (2019) What is it Writing For Pleasure teachers do that makes the difference? The Goldsmiths’ Company & The University Of Sussex: UK [Online] Available at: [writing4pleasure.com](http://writing4pleasure.com)

## Resources to support writing for pleasure

### KS1

*Under the Same Sky* – reading notes and letter writing activity:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4378/>

*Extraordinary* – reading notes and activities:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4380/>

*There's a Rang-tan in My Bedroom* – supporting resources and activity sheets:

<https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/hachette-schools-resources/hachetteschools-resources-key-stage-1/2019/12/12/theres-a-rang-tan-in-my-bedroom-free-resources/>

*A Child of Books* by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston – Teachers' Notes:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/3904/>

### KS2

*The Dinoteks* – reading notes and write a dinosaur mystery activity:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4421/>

*Me and Mister P* by Maria Farrer – reading notes, discussion ideas and create an animal best friend writing activity: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4225/>

*The Infinite* – Teacher Resource Pack and writing ideas:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4322/>

*Football Superstars* – Teachers' Notes and biography writing activity:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4306/>

*Kids Who Dare to be Different* – activity packs, audio extracts and journal sample page:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4396/>

Kiran Millwood Hargrave reading notes, videos and creative writing activities:

<https://www.chickenhousebooks.com/schools/kiran-millwood-hargrave-author/>

Youtube Writing Tips from Kate DiCamillo videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA1CTuZ27Bs>

### KS3/4

Alex Rider 20th Anniversary – Teachers' Notes and writing activities:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4176/>

The Monster Writing (*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness) – guide:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4137/>

*PROUD* – discussion notes and teaching resource guide:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/3359/>

*Big Bones* by Laura Dockrill – Live out loud: Secondary School resources packs:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/2618/>

Sound Loung Hack Pack: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/1558/>

You can find more resources on our [Chatterbooks](#) and [Reading Hack](#) pages.

## Useful websites

Andersen Press: <https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/free-stuff/>

Barrington Stoke: <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/product-category/free-resources/>

BBC Bitesize – Creative Writing: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpccwmn>

Bloomsbury Children's: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/childrens/teachers-librarians-parents-carers/>

Buster Books: <https://www.mombooks.com/buster/online-activities/>

Canongate: <https://canongate.co.uk/matt-haig/downloads/>

Chicken House Books: <https://www.chickenhousebooks.com/schools/>

Department for Education - Online English resources for home education:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/english-resources#english>

DK: <https://www.dk.com/uk/information/dk-teachers-resources/> and  
<https://bit.ly/3fGbx2R>

Faber Children's: <https://www.faber.co.uk/faber-childrens-resources>

Hachette Children's Group: <https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/>

HarperCollin's Children's: <https://www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-teaching-resources-activities/>

Little Tiger Press: <http://littletiger.co.uk/resources-for-teachers>

New Frontier Publishing: <https://www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk/teachers-and-librarians>

Nosy Crow: <https://nosycrow.com/teachers-resources/>

Oxford University Press: <https://global.oup.com/education/content/children/issues/free-resources/?region=uk>

Pearson Primary Resources:  
<https://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/Primary/Literacy/GlobalPages/early-literacy/writing-for-pleasure/writing-for-pleasure.aspx>

Puffin: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/company/creative-responsibility/penguin-talks/teaching-resources.html>

Simon and Schuster Kids: <https://www.simonandschuster.co.uk/c/Activity-Sheets>

Teach Primary – Pie Corbett resources:  
<https://www.teachprimary.com/index.php/download/pie-corbett/success>

TES resources – Creative Writing:  
<https://www.tes.com/resources/search/?&q=creative%20writing>

Usborne: <https://usborne.com/books-for-schools/teachers-resources/teachers-resources-to-support-usborne-childrens-books/>

Walker Books: <https://www.walker.co.uk/grown-ups/activities-for-home-and-school.aspx>