

# Big Writing In KS1



Big Writing is the brain child of Ros Wilson and a proven method of teaching writing which will improve children's understanding and writing, not just results!!

Big Writing is the development of the 'writing voice' through fast, fun, lively and predominantly oral activities. We all have a 'writing voice and a speaking voice - we say "traffic's bad" (L1), not "having battled through the traffic, I finally reached my destination" (L5)

### **Speaking is integral to Big Writing!**

This applies throughout the school . We can extend children's vocabulary through talk (little & often) e.g. I was late...

"Could you add in a 'because' ?"

"I was late because mom didn't wake us up"

"Why?"

"..because the alarm didn't go off."

•Speaking affects writing more than reading! - reading is someone else's language from someone else's brain. We can only write what's in our brain - if we can't speak it then we can't write it. We therefore spend a lot of time developing oral activities

•N & Rec focus on developing the 'writing voice' through speaking & listening - writing doesn't need to be formal but speaking and listening opportunities are developed little and often.

Y1 - 30mins of VCOP skills - Break - 30mins writing

Y2-6 - 45 mins of VCOP skills - Break - 45 mins writing

# VCOP

Through Big Writing we focus on four features of writing that can be applied to all genres of writing—these are:

**V**ocabulary

**C**onnectives

**O**penings

**P**unctuation



# Vocabulary

Our work on vocabulary encourages children to search for ambitious and imaginative vocabulary (ambitious means a word not usually used by a child at this age or stage of development). We may refer to these words as WOW words!

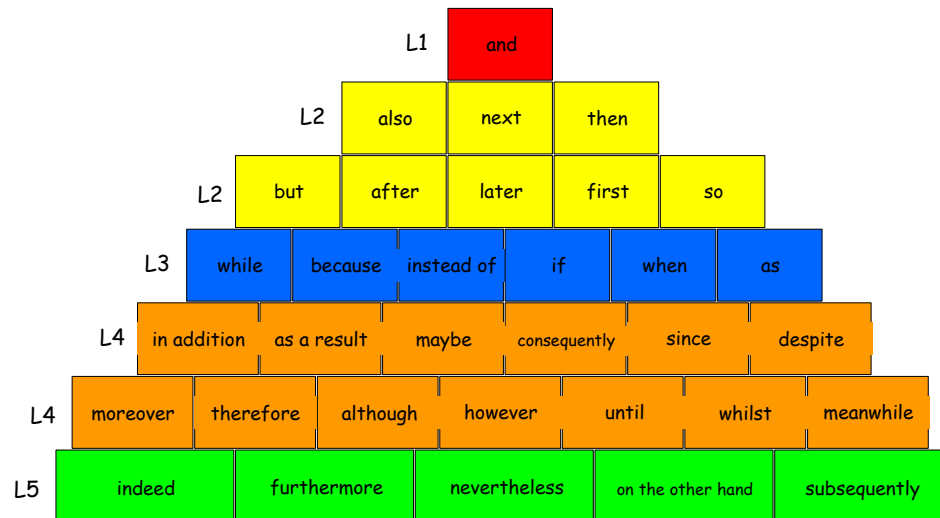
We spot WOW words in all lessons and all subjects. We may 'steal' words from texts, ask children which word they would steal and why.

- We have WOW word walls on our displays. Children can copy WOW words onto the Post-Its and add them to the wall. Children can then 'pinch' these words and use them in their own work. If your child spots a WOW word at home, please encourage them to bring it in to school to be displayed

- WOW words are like batteries - once you use them you drain the power so don't use a word more than once in a piece of writing.

# Connectives

Our work on connectives encourages children to join sentences and ideas using a variety of different connectives (joining words). Once again, the children become familiar with which connectives are appropriate to their level of writing. Children are of course, encouraged to use higher level connectives if they wish to.



# Openings

We focus on encouraging children to start their sentences in different ways in order to make their writing more varied and interesting.

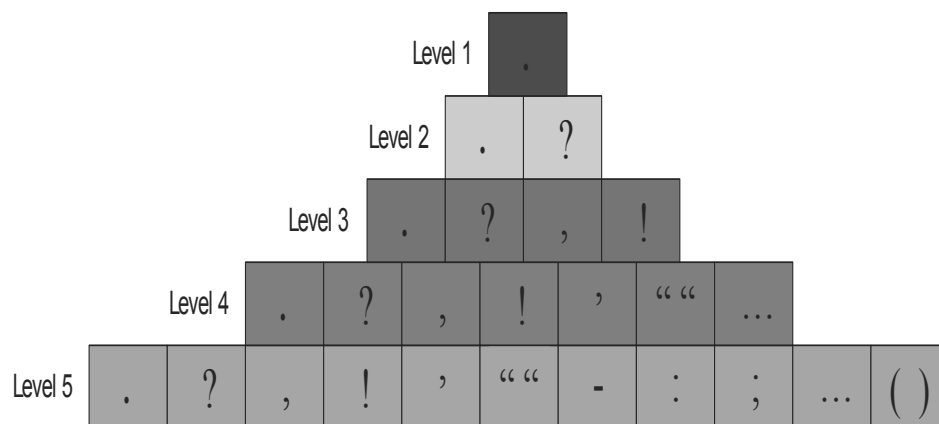


We work towards encouraging children to use the three different types of **POWER OPENERS**:

- 'ing' words e.g. Walking down the road, I saw a butterfly.
- 'ly' words e.g. Quickly I ran to the door.
- Connectives e.g. Because the alarm clock didn't go off, I was late.

# Punctuation

During Big Writing, we familiarise the children with the punctuation pyramid. This clearly sets out which pieces of punctuation we expect the children to use for their level of writing.



We need to let young children speak out loud because they need to verbalise their writing voice. Here are some fun games which will help to develop children's speaking voices.

- **Word Association**

How many different words can you think of associated with an object or a word?

- **Sentence Openers**

. "Give me a sentence opening with clearly", "Can you open a sentence with prowling?"

- **Punctuation Aerobics/Karate**

Say a sentence and get children to call out the appropriate punctuation and draw it in the air.

- **'Posh Voice'**

We need to encourage a 'posh voice' for writing so practise 'talking posh' - play 'Upstairs, Downstairs' where one person speaks incorrectly and the other person is the 'speech police' who shout out the corrections. Try this once a week - have a 'posh' 1/2 hour.

- **Wacky Whispers**

Make up a sentence that character x might say to character y.

- **Alphabet Zoo**

Think of an animal/food etc for each letter of the Alphabet ( a good 'in the car' game)

- **Snappy Synonyms**

Think of a word—how many synonyms can you think of e.g. happy—glad, joyous etc

- **Who Am I ?**

Person A thinks of a person. Person B has to ask questions to work out who it is e.g. 'Is it a man?'