

The cover features a central blue circle containing a red fox. Below the fox is a white banner with the word 'Creative' in a simple font, and a larger blue banner with the word 'Writing' in a bold, black font. Underneath 'Writing' is the word 'Handbook' in a smaller, yellow font. The background is filled with various hand-drawn icons: a paper airplane, a hot air balloon, a medal with the number '1', a tag, a smiley face, a heart, a leaf, a ring, a cup, a button, a snow globe, a foot with 'z' and 'o' symbols, musical notes, a key, a butterfly, a ladder, a planet, a magnifying glass, a mouse in a bowl, a sun, an envelope, a lightning bolt, a clock, and a pencil. A large green dragon is emerging from an open book at the bottom, with its body forming a shape that resembles the letter 'A'.

# Creative Writing Handbook

A special thanks to  
year 7 & 8 students  
from Co-op Academy  
for their hard work  
& contributions

 **KREATIVE**  
FOUNDATIONS  
Education

**STOKE  
READS**

National  
Literacy  
Trust



# HANDBOOK OVERVIEW

Welcome to our Creative Writing Handbook, filled with fun activities to get those creative writing ideas flowing, and to encourage participants to look at creative writing in a very different way.

The following activities have been developed by Kreative Foundations, in partnership with Stoke Reads, and Years 7 and 8 Literacy Champions from Co-op Academy.

## How the handbook works...

The handbook has been designed for teachers, parents and guardians. It provides full instructions of each activity, along with the accompanying handouts for you to print and use with your learners / children and young people.

## What is the intended outcome for these activities...

Stoke Reads are excited to launch their 2023 Creative Writing Competition, and would love for your learners / children and young people to take part! Our aim is that the activities within this book will help them to enter the competition, and develop their entries using a wide range of approaches.

NOTE: Follow the [link](#) for full details of Stoke Reads Creative Writing Competition.



# ACTIVITY 1

**ALLITERATION**  
**WARM UP ACTIVITY**



# WARM UP ACTIVITY

When working with students of Co-op Academy, we explored their likes and dislikes during the creative writing process. During this discussion they identified that sometimes they struggle to develop character names.

As a solution the students developed the following activity, supporting participants to create their own character names, whilst also applying alliteration, and developing concepts around their characters movements and interactions.



**SUPER** | **SUPER**  
**GOOD** | **BAD**

A tricky question we know... but each participant needs to decide whether they wish to become a Super Hero or a Super Villian?

Once selected, each participant is to create their Super Hero/Villian name using alliteration. They might want to use their own name as a starting point.



**STRIKE**  
**A POSE**

Now it's time to think about the behaviours and interactions of their Super Heroes/Villains, and any movements associated.

Afterwards, ask each participant to create a freeze frame representing the above, followed by a verbal explanation behind their pose.

To conclude, pair up a Super Hero and Villain. Together they are to create a new freeze frame around their interaction. Again follow this with both explaining their joint pose.



## ACTIVITY 2

# NO IDEA IS A RUBBISH IDEA

# NO IDEA IS A RUBBISH IDEA

From some of the most random ideas, this activity will support participants to create a collective story.

The core message behind this activity is... never throw away an idea. You never know when it might come in handy.

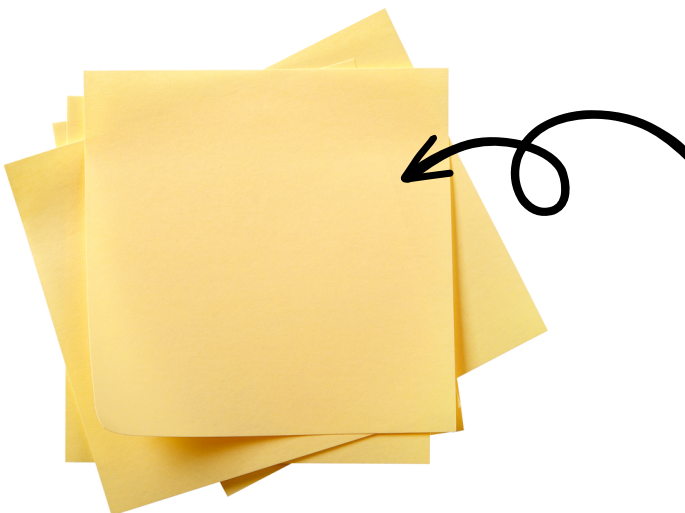
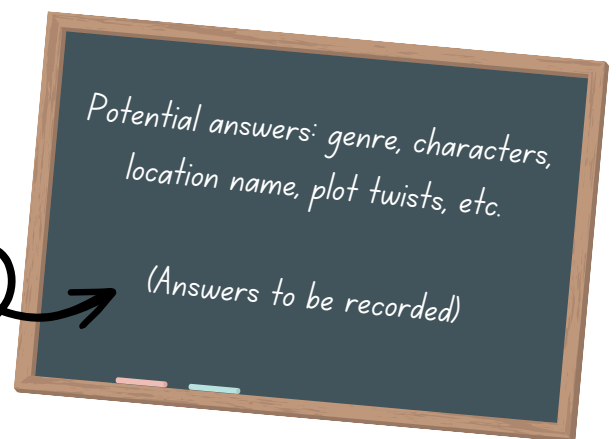


*Activity inspired by Grace, age 7*

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## STORY EXPLORATION

As a group, identify the key elements to be considered when mapping out a story.



Select one key element (such as genre). Now challenge participants to, individually, write as many answers as possible.

(one idea per post-it note).

# STORY SELECTIONS



Now it's time to start selecting your story's content

## PREPARATION

Place an empty bin, or any form of container, in the centre of the room.

All participants are to either line up, or circle the bin, leaving a distance of your choosing (a minimum of 2 metres recommended).

Now ask participants to create individual paper balls from their post-it notes.

## IDEAS SELECTION

Now it's time to throw away those ideas...

Challenge participants to throw as many paper balls into the bin as possible (in just 10 seconds).

Now let's rescue the ideas they threw away...

Select a number of post-its from those that landed in the bin. The ideas selected will now form your story's content moving forward.

## REPEAT

Repeat the process all over again, focusing on a different key element e.g. story location name:

- Write as many ideas as you can about the key element selected.
- Line up and make paper balls.
- In 10 seconds throw all ideas into the bin.
- Select final story ideas from those that hit the target.

# STORY CREATORS

Once all of the key elements have been selected, it's time to form a story from your VERY random ideas.

(Here's an example of the random ideas created by Literacy Champions from Co-op Academy, when they attempted this activity).

## CHARACTER NAMES:

Dave  
Hiro  
Mrs Corbally  
Gorey

## GENRE:

Fantasy

## LOCATION NAME:

Magious



## PLOT TWIST:

The main characters must complete quests to escape the land of Magious, but on completion they realise they don't want to leave.

Your story development can be approached individually, or as a group.

- You might want your group to take turns verbally developing the story.
- You may want to set them each the challenge to develop a story using all the content agreed.





## ACTIVITY 3

# ABSTRACT WRITING



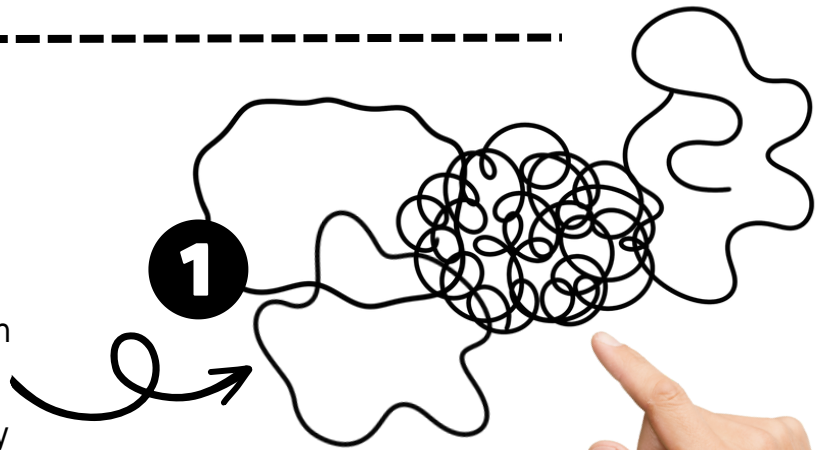
# ABSTRACT WRITING

Developed by students of Co-op Academy, this next activity supports participants to be open about their writing focus.

Rather than providing very specific focus points, the Co-op students wanted to provide an abstract concept. A concept which participants are able to take in any direction they choose.

## INTRODUCING BLOB

From the handout provided, each participant will individually select a BLOB of their choosing, or they can create their own.



Continue to encourage participants to make notes of all the ideas they have for BLOB...



- Is BLOB a living creature, or an object?
- Does BLOB have any colours, and what do they represent?
- Where does BLOB come from?
- What journeys might BLOB take?



### LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

Support participants to create a short story about their individual BLOB, incorporating all of their BLOB ideas.

Add on activity - ask participants to swap their BLOB ideas with someone else, now they are to write about BLOB from another person's perspective.

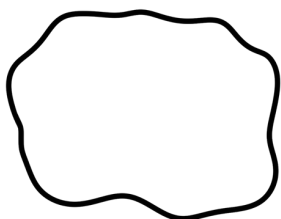
# BLOB

## IDEAS DEVELOPMENT

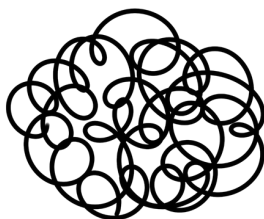
The key to BLOB is your imagination!

BLOB can become absolutely anything

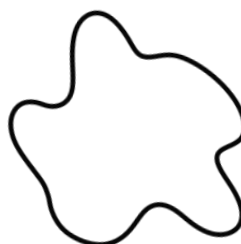
Select any of the BLOBS below, or create your own:



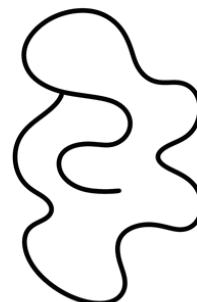
1



2



3



4

CREATE  
YOUR OWN  
BLOB



Below, make notes about all the ideas you have for BLOB:  
(use another page if you have more ideas)

COLOURS?

LOCATION/JOURNEYS?

WHAT IS BLOB?

# BLOB

## THE SHORT STORY

A large rectangular area defined by a dashed black border, intended for writing the short story.



**ACTIVITY 4**  
**SPIRAL**  
**WRITING**

# SPIRAL WRITING

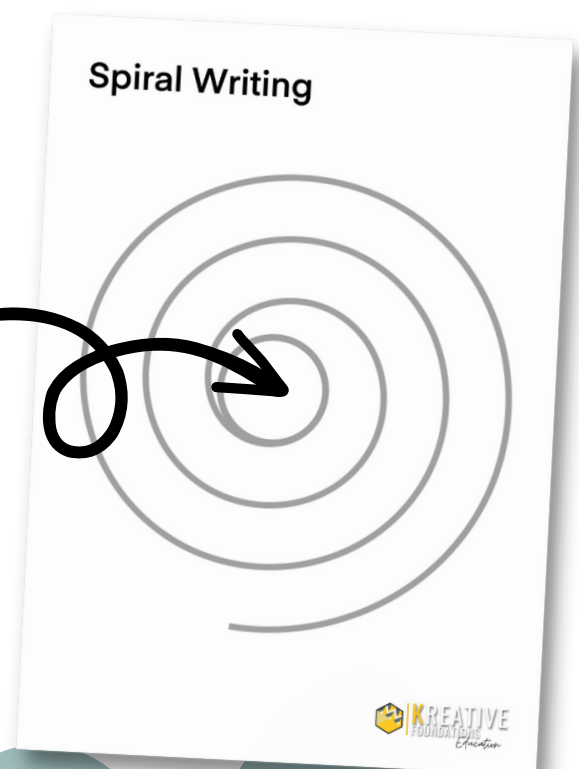
A great activity to help overcome the dreaded writers block, or for those who sometimes struggle to get their ideas onto paper due to the traditional structures of creative writing.

Structure is far from the main focus during this activity. Instead it's about writing whatever comes to mind.



## ESTABLISHING A WRITING THEME

To begin, select your writing theme. This could be anything you like! Write this as a title at the centre of your spiral.



# WRITING WITHOUT STRUCTURE

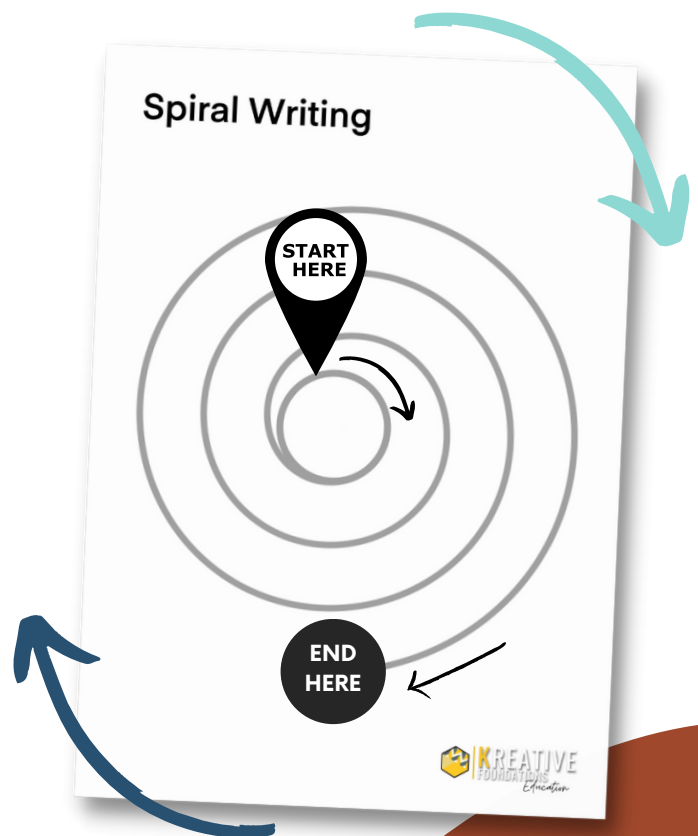
Now encourage participants to write whatever comes to mind, based on the theme title selected, twisting the page as they go so as to write in a continuous spiral.

(Both the start and end points are indicated here).

At this stage spelling, punctuation and grammar are not the focus... the activity is to be used to encourage participants to put thoughts onto the page, in whatever format that might be. The outcomes we have experienced from groups include:

- word association
- poetry
- mind maps
- stories
- open thought and opinions

This activity can also be used as a drawing activity. Instead of words, participants can draw doodles associated to the title, following the spiral as they draw.



# Spiral Writing







# **CREATIVE WRITING**

## **BONUS ACTIVITIES & IDEAS**

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**FROM CO-OP ACADEMY'S LITERACY CHAMPIONS**



# THAT'S THE PROBLEM WHAT'S THE SOLUTION

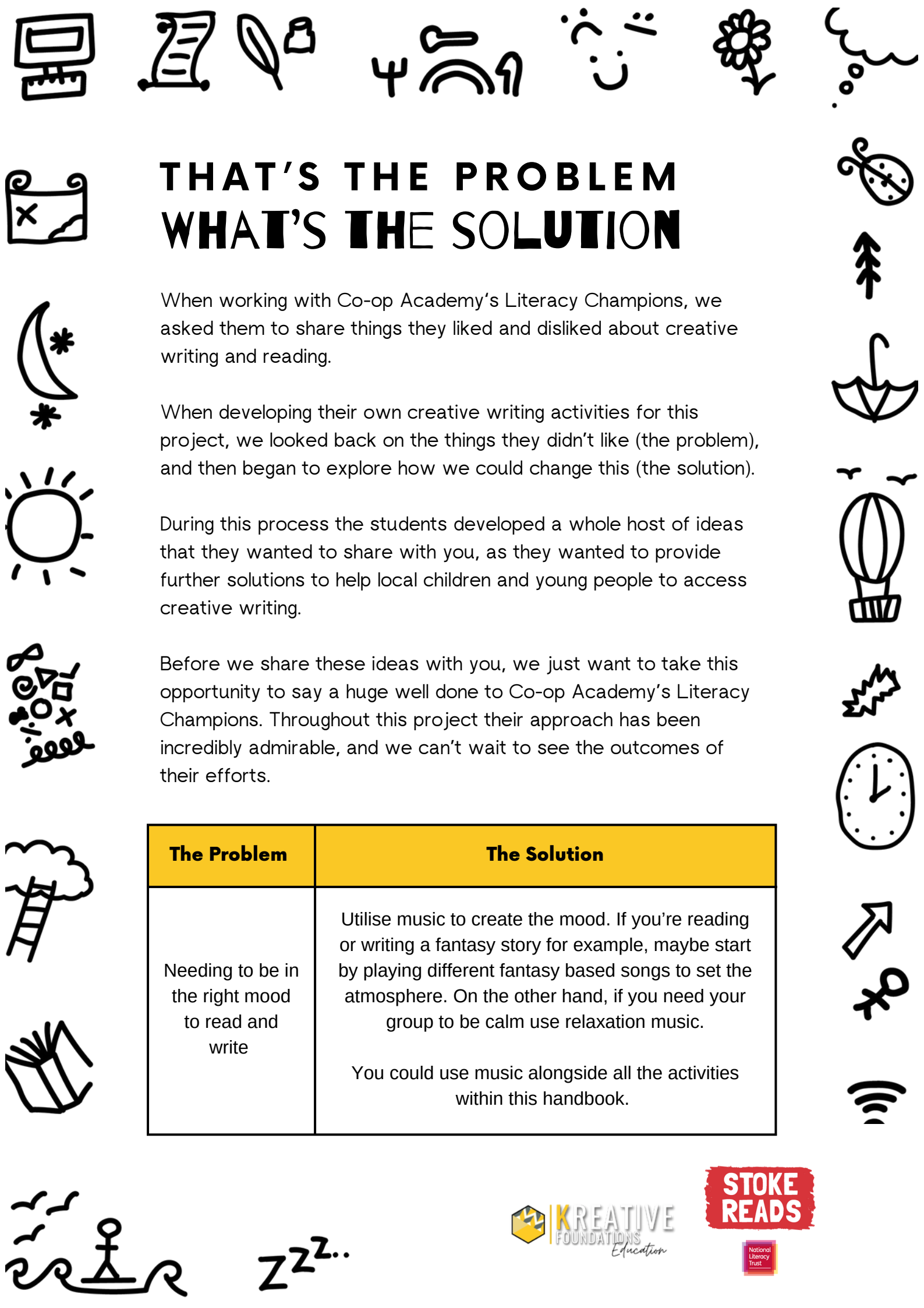
When working with Co-op Academy's Literacy Champions, we asked them to share things they liked and disliked about creative writing and reading.

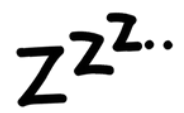
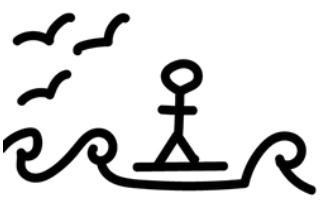
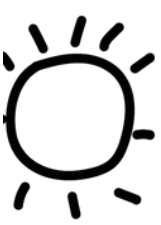
When developing their own creative writing activities for this project, we looked back on the things they didn't like (the problem), and then began to explore how we could change this (the solution).

During this process the students developed a whole host of ideas that they wanted to share with you, as they wanted to provide further solutions to help local children and young people to access creative writing.

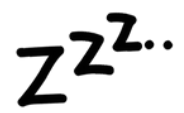
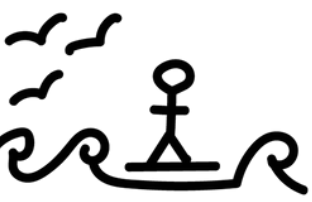
Before we share these ideas with you, we just want to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to Co-op Academy's Literacy Champions. Throughout this project their approach has been incredibly admirable, and we can't wait to see the outcomes of their efforts.

The Problem	The Solution
<p>Needing to be in the right mood to read and write</p>	<p>Utilise music to create the mood. If you're reading or writing a fantasy story for example, maybe start by playing different fantasy based songs to set the atmosphere. On the other hand, if you need your group to be calm use relaxation music.</p> <p>You could use music alongside all the activities within this handbook.</p>






The Problem	The Solution
Not knowing what to write	<p>Provide the following prompts to help inspire writing ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence starters</li> <li>• Cards of Randomness - create cards with random cues</li> <li>• Drawing prompts, instead of written prompts</li> <li>• Use a personal experience or dream</li> </ul>
Creating character names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write down the alphabet. Ask participants to cross out the common letters, until only rare ones remain. Participants are then to select one of the remaining letters, creating a name from this e.g. X - Xavier</li> <li>• Mash up words</li> <li>• Explore characteristics first</li> <li>• Use films and books</li> <li>• Use prompts from names of animals, people you've met, or words from nature</li> </ul>
Repetitiveness	Read books out of your comfort zone, which will help to enhance vocabulary.



The Problem	The Solution
<p>Developing ideas when inspiration is lacking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch shows that have a good theme/plot</li> <li>• Explore what motivated you in the past</li> <li>• Reduce options, to make choices easier</li> <li>• Look at an activity from another person's perspective - maybe partner up with someone you wouldn't normally and swap ideas. This will help your ideas for writing feel new and fresh</li> </ul>
<p>Large word limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer words</li> <li>• No limits</li> <li>• Home activities</li> <li>• Page limits, rather than word limits</li> </ul>
<p>Handwriting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use emojis (instead of words) to make a story</li> <li>• Watch videos of different handwriting styles and try them out</li> </ul>




# THE JOURNEY'S JUST BEGINNING



On behalf of Kreative Foundations, Stoke Reads and the incredible Literacy Champions from Co-op Academy, we hope you've enjoyed the creative writing activities in this handbook as much as we enjoyed creating them.

Although you've now come to the end of this handbook, the real journey is only just beginning. Now your learners / children and young people should have a wide range of strategies, and values, to help them develop even more creative writing pieces:

- No idea is a rubbish idea
  - Think outside of the box
  - Team work makes the dream work - as we can always gain inspiration from others
  - Sometimes we don't need to start with structure, sometimes we just need to give ourselves the opportunity to let our ideas flow
- 

We think a great place to start this new creative writing journey would be to enter Stoke Reads Creative Writing Competition. If you agree and want to know more, then head on over to:

[literacytrust.org.uk/communities/stoke/tell-your-six-towns-stories](http://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/stoke/tell-your-six-towns-stories)



Get those creative writing ideas flowing with this fun and interactive handbook.

Developed by Kreative Foundations, in partnership with Stoke Reads and Literacy Champions from the Co-op Academy, this engaging step-by-step handbook has been created for teachers, parents and guardians to help their learners / children or young people to explore creative writing in a very different way.

With activities and handouts to use at school or home, this guide will help you to explore character and story development, strategies to overcome the dreaded writers block, out of the box thinking, and much more!

