



# Ruardean C of E Primary School

*Love of learning – Love of life – Love of one another*

## Narrative Writing Progression

### Year 1– Year 6

V1 12-12-22

#### **Progression in Narratives**

Narrative is central to learning, especially for young children who develop their understanding through making up stories about what has happened and what might happen. Children use narrative to organise their ideas, structure their thinking and, ultimately, their writing. Telling and writing stories is not simply a set of skills for children to learn, but an essential means for them to express themselves in creative and imaginative ways.

#### **PURPOSE – Writing to Entertain**

The purpose of narrative can be defined simply as to tell a story. However, that does not convey the many purposes of stories and the way that they work at different levels. The purpose of a narrator is to make the listener or reader respond in a particular way. Stories are written or told to entertain and enthrall an audience. Stories can make us sad, horrify us, make us laugh, make us excited. They create imaginative worlds that can help us understand ourselves and the things around us and take us beyond our own experience. From the earliest times, stories have been a part of the way that people have explained their world, passed on their beliefs and memories and entertained one another.

#### **Text Types**

Stories that use predictable and patterned language  
Traditional and/or folk tales  
Fairy tales  
Stories set in familiar settings  
Retellings of stories heard and read  
Retelling simple stories in different ways (extending the narrative; using technology; rewriting narrative poems as prose, turning prose into a script or vice versa etc.)  
Modifying well-known stories (changing a character; amending the ending; changing the setting etc.)  
Stories set in historical contexts  
Myths and legends  
Stories with flashbacks  
Stories set in fantasy worlds  
Stories from different cultures  
Science fiction stories  
Adventure stories  
Mystery stories  
Scary stories  
Narratives retold from another perspective (e.g. from the point of view of a different character)  
Stories with morals or fables  
Stories with dilemmas  
Stories told as playscripts  
Telling a story from a first-person narrative (e.g. diaries and letters)

### Progression of Text Features

YEAR 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple narratives and retellings are told/written in first or third person.</li> <li>• Simple narratives are told/ written in past tense.</li> <li>• Events are sequenced to create texts that make sense.</li> <li>• The main participants are human or animal.</li> <li>• Simple narratives use typical characters, settings and events whether imagined or real.</li> <li>• • ‘Story language’ (e.g. once upon a time, later that day etc.) may be used to create purposeful sounding writing.</li> </ul>
YEAR 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narratives and retellings are told/ written in first or third person</li> <li>• Narratives and retellings are told/ written in past tense</li> <li>• Events are sequenced to create texts that make sense.</li> <li>• The main participants are human or animal. They are simply developed as either good or bad characters.</li> <li>• Simple narratives use typical characters, settings and events whether imagined or real.</li> <li>• • Language choices help create realistic sounding narratives. e.g. adverbs, adjectives, precise nouns (turquoise instead of blue, jumper instead of top, policeman instead of man) etc.</li> </ul>
YEAR 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in first or third person.</li> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in past tense, occasionally these are told in the present tense.</li> <li>• Events are sequenced to create chronological plots through the use of adverbials and prepositions.</li> <li>• Descriptions, including those of settings, are developed through the use of adverbials, e.g. in the deep dark woods...</li> <li>• Narratives use typical characters, settings and events whether imagined or real.</li> <li>• Dialogue begins to be used to convey characters’ thoughts and to move the narrative forward.</li> <li>• Language choices help create realistic sounding narratives. e.g. adverbs, adjectives, precise nouns (turquoise instead of blue, jumper instead of top, policeman instead of man), expressive verbs (e.g. shouted/muttered instead of said etc.)</li> </ul>
YEAR 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in the first or third person.</li> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in the past tense, occasionally these are told in the present tense.</li> <li>• Events are sequenced to create chronology through the use of adverbials and prepositions</li> <li>• Descriptions, including those of settings, are developed through the use of adverbials, e.g. in the deep dark woods...</li> <li>• Narratives use typical characters, settings and events whether imagined or real.</li> <li>• Dialogue is used to convey characters’ thoughts and to move the narrative forward.</li> <li>• Language choices help create realistic sounding narratives. e.g. adverbs, adjectives, precise nouns, expressive verbs and figurative language etc.</li> </ul>

<p><b>YEAR 5</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in first or third person.</li> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in past tense, occasionally these are told in the present tense.</li> <li>• Narratives are told sequentially and non-sequentially (e.g. flashbacks) through the use adverbials and prepositions.</li> <li>• Descriptions of characters, setting, and atmosphere are developed through precise vocabulary choices e.g. adverbs, adjectives, precise nouns, expressive verbs and figurative language</li> <li>• Dialogue is used to convey characters' thoughts and to move the narrative forward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>YEAR 6</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in first or third person.</li> <li>• Narratives and retellings are written in past tense, occasionally these are told in the present tense.</li> <li>• Narratives are told sequentially and non-sequentially (e.g. flashbacks) through the use adverbials and prepositions.</li> <li>• Descriptions of characters, setting, and atmosphere are developed through precise vocabulary choices e.g. adverbs, adjectives, precise nouns, expressive verbs and figurative language.</li> <li>• Dialogue is used to convey characters' thoughts and to move the narrative forward.</li> </ul>

## Progression in Grammar

<b>YEAR 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories are often written in the third person and past tense e.g. Goldilocks ate the porridge; Goldilocks broke the chair; She fell asleep in Baby Bear's bed.</li> <li>• Personal recounts and retellings often use the first person and past tense, e.g. I had tea at my Granny's house on Saturday; We went to the park after school.</li> <li>• Sentences are demarcated using full-stops, capital letters and finger spaces.</li> <li>• Use of conjunctions e.g. and ... to join ideas and create variety in the sentence structure.</li> <li>• Use of exclamation marks to indicate emotions such as surprise or shock e.g. Help! Oh no!</li> <li>• Question marks can be used to form questions, e.g. I said to Mum can I have a biscuit? Who are you? said the wolf.</li> <li>• Use of the personal pronoun 'I' to retell personal narratives, e.g. I went to the park yesterday.</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories are often written in the third person and past tense e.g. Goldilocks ate the porridge; Goldilocks broke the chair; She fell asleep in Baby Bear's bed.</li> <li>• The past progressive form of verbs can be used, e.g. the Billy Goats Gruff were eating, Rapunzel was hoping someone would come and rescue her...</li> <li>• Apostrophes can be used for possession, e.g. Granny's house, baby bear's bed.</li> <li>• Apostrophes to show contraction can be used, e.g. Goldilocks couldn't believe her eyes.</li> <li>• Personal retellings often use the first person and past tense, e.g. I had tea at my Granny's house on Saturday; We went to the park after school.</li> <li>• Sentences are demarcated using full-stops, capital letters and finger spaces.</li> <li>• Use of conjunctions e.g. and, so, because, when, if, that, or, but ... to join ideas and enable subordination of ideas.</li> <li>• Use of exclamation marks to indicate emotions such as surprise or shock e.g. Help! Oh no! and to form exclamative sentences, e.g. How amazing was that! What an incredible sight!</li> <li>• Question marks can be used to form questions, including rhetorical questions used to engage the reader.</li> <li>• Adjectives including comparative adjectives are used to aid description and make comparisons, e.g. the troll was big but the eldest Billy Goat Gruff was bigger.</li> <li>• Noun phrases can be used to create effective descriptions, e.g. the deep, dark woods.</li> <li>• Commas can be used to separate lists of characters, ideas and adjectives in expanded noun phrases.</li> <li>• Verbs should be chosen for effect e.g. walked instead, grabbed instead of got etc.</li> </ul>

YEAR 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraphs are useful for organising the narrative into logical sections, e.g. paragraphs about the setting or characters, or paragraphs used to denote the passage of time.</li> <li>• Adverbs e.g. first, then, after that, finally...are useful for denoting shifts in time and for structuring the narrative.</li> <li>• The use of conjunctions e.g. when, before, after, while, so, because...enables causation to be included in the narrative.</li> <li>• Using prepositions e.g. before, after, during, after, before, in, because of... enables the passage of time to be shown in the narrative and the narrative to be moved on.</li> <li>• Present perfect form of verbs can be used within dialogue or a character's thoughts, e.g. What has happened to us? What have you done? They have forgotten me...</li> <li>• Headings and subheadings can be used to indicate sections in the narrative, e.g. Chapter 1; How it all began; the story comes to a close... etc.</li> <li>• Inverted commas can be used to punctuate direct speech this allows characters to interact and the story to be developed.</li> <li>• Noun phrases can be used to create effective descriptions, e.g. the deep, dark woods.</li> <li>• Verbs and adverbs should be chosen for effect e.g. shouted/muttered instead of said; angrily/quietly etc. to show rather than tell how characters feel and behave.</li> <li>• Cohesion can be created, and repetition avoided through the use of nouns and pronouns e.g. Sammy and John... they... the boys...</li> </ul>
YEAR 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The third person and past tense are used. This can include the past progressive (e.g. the Billy Goats Gruff were eating), present perfect (e.g. What have you done?).</li> <li>• Standard English forms of verb inflections are used instead of local spoken forms, e.g. 'we were' instead of 'we was', 'we did that' rather than 'we done that'.</li> <li>• Fronted adverbials can be used e.g. During the night..., in a distant field.... These should be punctuated using a comma.</li> <li>• The use of adverbials e.g. therefore, however creates cohesion within and across paragraphs.</li> <li>• Cohesion can also be created, and repetition avoided through the use of nouns and pronouns e.g. Sammy and John... they... the boys...</li> <li>• Paragraphs are useful for organising the narrative into logical sections.</li> <li>• Verbs and adverbs should be chosen for effect e.g. shouted/muttered instead of said; angrily/quietly etc. to show rather than tell how characters feel and behave.</li> <li>• The use of conjunctions e.g. when, before, after, while, so, because...enables causation to be included in the narrative.</li> <li>• Descriptions can be developed through the effective use of expanded noun phrases e.g. the big blue bird (expanded with adjectives); oak tree (tree modified with a noun); the teacher with the curly hair (noun modified with preposition).</li> <li>• The full range of speech punctuation can be used to indicate dialogue this allows characters to interact and the story to be developed.</li> <li>• Apostrophes can be used to indicate plural possession e.g. The girls' names, the children's mother, the aliens' spaceship.</li> </ul>

YEAR 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The third person and past tense are used. This can include the past progressive (e.g. the Billy Goats Gruff were eating), present perfect (e.g. What have you done?).</li> <li>• Opportunities also exist for the use of the past perfect e.g. The children had tried...earlier in the day, the goblins had hidden... and Past perfect progressive forms e.g. the children had been searching... they had been hoping to find the treasure since they started on the quest ...</li> <li>• Adverbials can be used e.g. therefore, however, to create cohesion within and across paragraphs. These adverbials can take the form of time (later), place (nearby), and numbers (secondly).</li> <li>• Modals can be used to suggest degrees of possibility, e.g. They should never have...If they were careful, the children might be able to...</li> <li>• Adverbs of possibility can be used to suggest possibility, e.g. They were probably going to be stuck there all night..., they were definitely on the adventure of a lifetime...</li> <li>• Parenthesis can be used to add additional information through the use of brackets, dashes or commas e.g. using brackets for stage instructions in a playscript.</li> <li>• Layout devices can be used to provide additional information and guide the reader, e.g. Chapter 1, How it all began..., The story comes to a close...</li> <li>• Relative clauses can be used to add further information, e.g. the witch, who was ugly and green,...The treasure, which had been buried in a chest... this should include the use of commas when required.</li> </ul>
YEAR 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By writing for a specified audience and with a particular purpose in mind, the writer can choose between vocabulary typical of informal speech and that appropriate for formal speech e.g. the battalion traversed the mountain range; the soldiers walked over the mountains.</li> <li>• The passive voice can be used e.g. it was possible that..., the map was given to the children by..., more ingredients were added to the potion etc.</li> <li>• Writers may use conditional forms such as the subjunctive form to hypothesise, e.g. If the children were to get out of this situation..., if only there were a way to solve this problem..., I wished I were somewhere else...etc.</li> <li>• Past perfect progressive forms can be used to indicate specific points in time e.g. the children had been searching... I had been dreaming of riding a unicorn all my life...</li> <li>• Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices such as organisational features, pronouns, nouns and adverbials. Or by choosing to use repetition or ellipses for effect.</li> <li>• Colons, semi-colons and dashes can be used to separate and link ideas.</li> </ul>

Adapted from Primary English Education document.