

SPA Planning Structure for Whole-Class Writing Lessons

Teachers plan the half termly sequence of writing lessons using the following structure:

RAG Rating Cold Task

- Children are given a list of 'signifiers' which are the key words and technical vocabulary that are going to be taught through the half term. The children indicate whether they know the word or not. The teachers use this information to influence their teaching content.
- The signifiers are displayed in the classroom, along with visual representations of the meaning of each word, so that the children can refer to them as they write. The visual signifiers help the children to remember, use and embed the new vocabulary.

Talk for Writing

- The unit of work for the half term is planned around a key text that links to the theme. An extract or shorter version of this text is used as a Talk for Writing text, which the children learn to recite, using actions to help them to remember their key vocabulary. The Theme Key Texts document outlines the key text used to influence the Talk for Writing Text for each phase, each half term:
- The purpose of learning the Talk for Writing text is to help the children to orally rehearse age appropriate sentence structures that include the correct use of new and ambitious vocabulary. The children are then encouraged to use similar sentence structures and vocabulary in their own writing.
- The Talk for Writing text is taught at the beginning of the writing unit, and is then regularly orally rehearsed, as a group, to help the children to remember and embed the use of the newly learned vocabulary and sentence structures.

Writing

- Children are then given opportunities to write their own texts linked to the theme, using the newly learned vocabulary and sentence structures that have already been taught.
- In these lessons, children study different text types to learn about their features.
- Children recap spelling, punctuation and grammar objectives that have been taught through the RWI Spelling Scheme, and they are expected to apply this learning within their writing.

Hot Task

- At the end of the half term, children independently produce a final piece of writing, using all of the spelling, vocabulary and grammar that has been taught.

RAG Rating Hot Task

- The unit ends with a recap of the RAG Rating task that was completed at the start of the unit. This task gives the children the opportunity to self-assess the new vocabulary that they have learned.