

Y4 English

What they need to know...

This half term we are exploring narrative writing, specifically adventure and time slip stories. In our lessons, we will be looking at texts to show us main characters that have a goal to achieve, that overcome dangerous or exciting obstacles, and that have settings that move between present and past.

The objectives which link to this unit of work include:

Composition

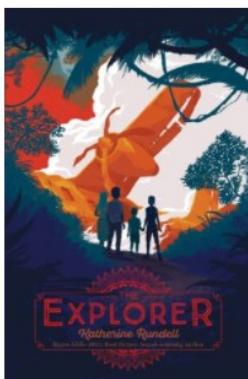
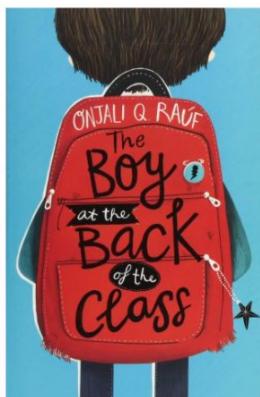
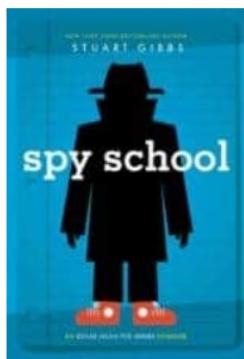
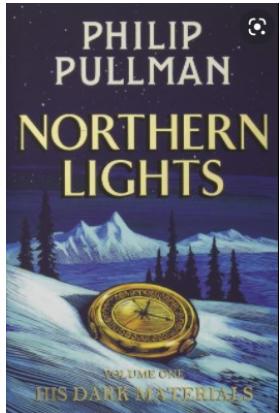
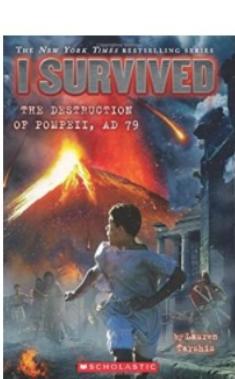
- Using paragraphing to indicate shifts in time, place and subject.
- Using adjectives, verbs and adverbs to write detailed setting and character descriptions.

Grammar and punctuation

- Identifying the main and the subordinate clause in a complex sentence.
- Writing using a full range of sentence types (simple, compound and complex).
- Using direct speech.

Calling all screenwriters and actors!

Visit the library or search through your own collection of books. Can you find an 'Adventure story', in which the main character has to overcome obstacles while trying to achieve a goal? Now it's up to you to bring this story to life! Create a film script, picking out the key parts of your chosen story. Now focus on the climax of the story and prepare a short drama to perform. Or even better, you could record your own version of the scene to show the class. Be ready to answer any questions about the story.



Wonderful websites

Grammar

- [Topmarks](#) - a range of different games focusing on grammar rules.
- [How to use commas between clauses](#).
- [What are paragraphs?](#)
- [Direct Speech](#): A short clip and linked activities on speech marks.

Let's write...

We have been looking at using different sentence types to make our writing more interesting.



A simple sentence has a subject and only one verb, e.g. **The cat purred**.

A compound sentence has two main clauses joined by a conjunction, e.g. **I like cats and I like dogs**.

A complex sentence has a main clause and a subordinate clause, e.g. **I didn't like the play, although the acting was very good**.

You could play the 'Random Words' game, using the instructions below to try and write some simple, compound and complex sentences of your own.

Random Words:

- Choose a book.
- Ask for a number and turn to this page in the book.
- Now ask for another number and this will give you the line to look at.
- Then ask for a final number that is less than 10 and count along the line to select the word.
- Create a sentence using this word.

Grammar fun

How to write direct speech...



Do you have speech marks at the **start** and at the **end** of the words being spoken?

"Action!" said the director.



Have you started a **new line** every time someone new starts speaking?

"Can we have a close up?" asked Sarah.
"No problem!" replied Thomas.



Do you have a **capital letter** at the start of the speech?

Bruce said, "Sorry, I forgot my lines."



Have you remembered to add **commas**?

Paul whispered, "Great job."
"Thank you," replied Justine.



Do you have **punctuation** inside the speech marks?

"That's a wrap!" cheered the producer.



Inverted commas
Quotation marks
Speech marks

There are 3 names for this piece of punctuation.

Within your stories, you are probably going to want to write some speech. Remind yourself of the rules for writing speech and then prepare a poster, a rhyme or a memory jogger to help others punctuate their speech.