

Scribble Society



TEACHER'S NOTES

Session One – **Scribble Yourself**

- Start the session by sharing the videos from Lisa Williamson introducing the Scribble Society and her top tips for writing.

<https://guppybooks.co.uk/scribblesociety/>

- Emphasise the importance of having fun whilst writing. Explain to scribblers that the Scribble Society is about exploring and experimenting with creative writing. There is no expectation that their writing should be 'perfect' or that it should fit a specific assessment criterion.
- It would be a good idea to model writing a few of your own answers to the questions. Children will enjoy finding things out about you and it will encourage them to write personal and honest answers.
- You may wish to model writing the start of a longer response before scribblers start writing, or you could write your own longer response while the children are working on their own compositions.
- Decide what you would like your scribblers to write on at the Scribble Society. You could print out the sheets for each session or provide scribblers with exercise books, or invite them to use their own special books for writing.
- You could encourage scribblers to sit and write in a location or position that feels comfortable to them. (This may be under a table or outside!)
- While the scribblers are writing you may wish to play some quiet background music. Discuss with students whether they would find this helpful or distracting.
- If scribblers do not feel comfortable reading their work aloud to others do not insist upon this.

Session Two – **Scribble Your Senses**

- Provide some examples for the first activity, focusing particularly on the abstract nouns. For example, you might suggest that for you, happiness smells like a musty old book; romance sounds like rustling leaves; boredom smells like a wet dog and anger feels like walking on hot sand.
- Read the extracts from *Best Friends Forever* aloud to scribblers, slowly and clearly. Ask them to comment on particular words and phrases that they enjoy hearing.
- To inspire scribblers further you could share this video of author Jaclyn Moriarty introducing her novel *The Impossible Secret of Lillian Velvet*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuRLYKgN5hA>

Jaclyn shares three exercises for creating characters and one of her top tips involves thinking about your own favourite smell. (The whole video is well worth watching but Jaclyn talks specifically about her favourite smell from 05:03 to 06:45.)

Session Three – **Scribble Some Story Seeds**

- With younger scribblers, it might be best to just add a single line to each story. When each scribbler has added their line, they should fold their piece of paper in half, ready to swap with a friend.
- You could set the timer for one, two or five minutes each time - maybe even longer if you are not planning to do exercise 2 in this session. But ensure that all scribblers are aware that it does not matter how much they write on each page.
- For exercise 2, you will need to use three bags, hats or cups. Cut out the characters, settings and objects. Place the slips of paper in the bags, using one bag for each category. Invite scribblers to pick one piece of paper from each bag.

Session Four - **Scribble an Escape**

- Scribblers can work alone, in pairs or small groups. Because this is so ideas based, working in groups is nice as they can bounce ideas about.
- The example introductions could be read aloud to the group or you could give pairs of children a copy of the sheet to read. Ask them which one appeals to them the most? Which would be the most challenging? Which would be the most popular for different groups of people?

- Some children may prefer to write out step by step instructions for completing the escape room successfully – rather than drawing the design. (Or this could be an additional activity for another Scribble Society session.)
- If scribblers are lacking inspiration for a theme, ask them to consider their favourite things – books, hobbies, places etc. They could even design a school or library themed escape room, using rooms and people they know as part of the story.

Session Five - **Scribble a Shoe**

- There are three activities in this session so you can choose to do one, two or all three depending on the time available and the age/interests of your students.
- After scribblers have written their letters to their objects, you could invite them to read their letters aloud and the group could try and guess the objects that have been written about.
- For the final activity, scribblers will need some objects. You could invite children to bring in some objects from home or provide them with a selection of random items collected from your home (e.g., keys, an old coin, a coaster, a piece of ribbon, a birthday candle.) Alternatively, they could find objects in the classroom or library.

Session Six - **Scribble a School**

- Stories set in unusual schools that children may know include: *The School of Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani, *The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst* by Jaclyn Moriarty, *Skander and the Unicorn Thief* by A.F Steadman, *Murder Most Unladylike* by Robin Stevens, *The Demon Headmaster* by Gillian Cross and *The Children of Castle Rock* by Natasha Farrant.
- The children could draw the school they are imagining if they are an arty bunch. They could also write out timetables for the school day.
- This workshop could easily be extended across several Scribble Society sessions. Children could write their school themed stories in instalments each week. They could think about events that could happen across a school term or year and some kind of transformation that could happen to the main character. School is all about learning, and in school themed stories the protagonists usually learn something about themselves.

Welcome to Guppy School!



At Guppy School we are passionate about promoting reading for pleasure in schools and bringing fun, vibrant and high-quality literature into classrooms. We've created an extensive range of free educational resources to accompany our books. These include detailed lesson plans, cross-curricular resource packs, discussion questions, engaging games, Book Club Cards and author workshops.

Many of our resources align with National Curriculum objectives and they have all been designed by experienced teachers or librarians.

Our Guppy School platform also includes details about how to contact authors and illustrators for school visits, along with our Top Tips for an Awesome Author visit.

We are constantly updating our Guppy School page with new content and resources. Dive into the shoal and sign up for our monthly school newsletter for exclusive early access to materials, as well as regular competitions and giveaways.

<https://guppybooks.co.uk/guppy-school-resources/>

Maggie Blue and the Dark World
by Anna Goodall:
4x Lesson Plans and Ideas - Educational Resource Pack

Suitable for:
Ages 9+

Explore themes of:

- The power of friendship and trust
- Mental health and its unique perspective on the story
- The value of being yourself and embracing individuality
- The nature of happiness and its significance
- The importance of standing up against darkness and evil
- The courage to embark on a dangerous journey
- The exploration of parallel worlds
- The impact of loneliness
- Animal perspectives

Subject checklist:

- Literacy ● Drama ● Art and Design ● PSHE

The Cats We Meet Along the Way

Author: Nadia Mikail

Age: 12+ Genre: Fiction - family and friendships

This is the book for you if you like ...

- Adventurous road trips.
- Rich details about life in Malaysia.
- Finding the light in dark times.
- Real and honest family dynamics.
- Dystopian yet hopeful stories.
- *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin.

Summary: Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister for two years. And now that a calamity is about to end the world in nine months' time, she and her mother decide that it's time to track her down and mend the hurts of the past. Along with Aisha's boyfriend, his parents (and Fleabag the stray cat), the group take a roadtrip through Malaysia in a wildly decorated campervan - to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and to hope for the future.

Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2023.

Extract: The world found out it was ending on just another Tuesday. IN A YEAR, the headlines screamed. Back when there still had been headlines. An asteroid heading straight for collision. Hollywood perfect for the end of the world. It really was like something out of a movie. Sometimes it still felt like a cruel, extended prank. (Page 15)

Fleabag meowed and meowed all the damn time and if the world cracked apart, who was going to feed him then? That stupid cat was curly-coloured and not even the good kind of curly, he was like curly which had gone off... (Page 215)

HOPEFUL - EMOTIONAL - VIVID

Descriptive writing
Creates a clear picture in the reader's mind

The crocodile twisted and turned, snapping at me as I clung desperately on. At one point I thought it was all over as the beast whipped round and slammed its mighty jaws shut. A powerful tug at my back nearly plucked me from my perch on its tail, and one for one horrible moment I expected its row of splintered teeth to slice into me. But then I realised the beast had bitten into the rucksack on my back! The enraged crocodile let go but continued to spin and spiral, leaping from the river, and then diving into its musky depths. Somehow I managed to hold on and crawl up its gnarled back, gripping its scaly body with my hands and knees like a bucking bronco rider.

Pick out some of the words and phrases used to describe the crocodile and what it is doing:

Write your own descriptive sentence about the crocodile: