PLEASE DONATE!

GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHARITY

A message from Talk for Writing

Please donate to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity if you use this resource.

Dear Teacher/Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the third batch of home-school unit booklets!

The first two batches of units have reached hundreds of thousands of children and the positive feedback has been overwhelming.

The units are intended to be used with online support by class teachers and by parents at home. They are produced by unpaid volunteers who are giving their time to help teachers, families and children while the schools are closed and we want to use the units to help an extremely good cause.

We are asking for voluntary contributions to Great Ormond Street Hospital of:

- **£5 per year group unit**
  Schools using or sending the link to a unit to their pupils
- **£2 per unit**
  Parents using a unit with their child, **if they can afford to do so**

Every single penny raised will go directly to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Due to Covid-19, the hospital has increased its intensive care capacity to make sure they have room for some of the UK's most seriously ill children. They need support now more than ever to give these children a better future.

DONATE HERE
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/home-school-booklets

I hope you enjoy using the unit. Thank you for your support.

With best wishes,

Pie Corbett
Talk for Writing

What is Talk for Writing?
Thousands of schools in the UK, and beyond, follow the Talk for Writing approach to teaching and learning. Find more about it **here.**

TalkforWriting™

Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

Journey to the Jungle!

by Maria Richards

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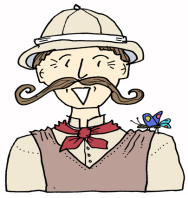
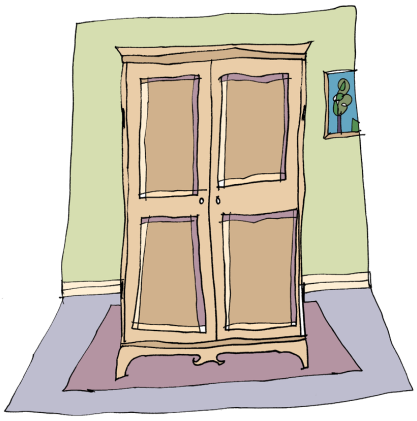


I'm your explorer and guide, so let's get on and discover new lands together!

Welcome to my world of exploring! You'll find lots of fun things to work through that will help you with your writing skills and build on the work you do at school.



Do you know *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – the story of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy who discover the world of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe?

★ **If you have access to the Internet, type this into Google and discover Narnia with Lucy:**
https://cutt.ly/2yvlv0q

Would you believe me if I told you that I have a wardrobe that takes me to magical places? I have been a jungle explorer for many years. I have explored the Cloud Jungle in Peru, the wild jungles of Borneo and even the Ancient Waipoua Forest in New Zealand. However, six years ago, I bought a beautiful wardrobe at a market and when I got it home, I discovered that it was not just beautiful, but magical too! Every week, on a Sunday evening, if I step into the wardrobe, I'm transported to a magical jungle that is out of this world. Come and discover these new lands with me!

Visiting a jungle

★ Exploring jungles is very exciting. Every time I go through my wardrobe and discover a new one, I write in my 'Jungle Log'. It is a bit like a diary and it is where I write down what has happened on my visits. Here is my entry from my visit to the Atlanti Jungle in Oreno, an amazing place where the sky is yellow and the soil pink.

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Listen to a recording of the text below here:
https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/jungle/s-4Ye8khPyx1x

Jungle Log: 18th April, 2020

Today has been an amazing day of discovery! I woke early and got ready for my trek into the Atlanti Jungle. I was excited and couldn't wait to see what lay ahead of me. I packed my rucksack and put on my sturdy walking boots. I made sure my camera was working because I wanted to record as much of the day as possible. I left the camp at 6am.

First, I trudged through the dense forest and collected samples of the plant life. My favourite was a thorny bush. It had tiny, yellow flowers growing on it, which smelt like ice cream! Next, I studied some of the mesmerising insects that were crawling up the rough bark of every tree. One insect looked like a caterpillar but had 2 sets of wings and tiny hands on the ends of its 20 legs. Excitedly, I photographed as many creatures as I could because I wanted to show my explorer friends what I had discovered.

After a short tea break, I measured the circumference of the tallest trees to work out how old they were. One measured 10 metres around and was so tall that I couldn't see the top of it. It reminded me of the beanstalk in a famous children's story. Next, I trekked to a clearing and found a beautiful plunge pool. The water was turquoise and tiny neon fish were splashing on the surface. I tried to catch one, but they were too fast for me. Then it was time for a rest. I lounged on pink grass, soaking up the purple sun beams and listened to the strange jungle noises around me.

Finally, I headed back to camp because the sun began to set. It sets quickly in Oreno and I was worried I might get lost. When I got to my tent, I unpacked my rucksack and stored my plant samples safely. I'm really looking forward to where my wardrobe will take me next week!

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What do the words mean?

★ Let's take a look at the meaning of some of the words in my diary.

Word:	Definition:
discovery	something that is found or learned for the first time
trek	a long, challenging journey on foot
sturdy	strong and solid
trudge	to walk slowly
circumference	the distance around something circular
dense	packed together with not much space around
mesmerising	something that holds your complete attention
turquoise	a greenish-blue colour

Use an example

★ Look at the definitions above. Draw a picture in each box below that could represent the word in the box.

sturdy	trudge
dense	mesmerising

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Which synonym?

★ Synonyms are words with the same or similar meanings. Match the synonyms below this table to the target words.

★ Can you find any more synonyms to add into the table?

Target word	Synonyms
discovery	
trek	
sturdy	
trudged	
circumference	
dense	
mesmerising	
turquoise	

Which Synonyms match the target words?

fascinating edge hard-wearing hike finding plod thick blue-green

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Anything else?

★ **Read my diary again. <u>Underline any other words</u> you don't know the meaning of. Can you find out what they mean? You could ask someone else in your home to tell you, use a dictionary or search the internet. Write your definitions out on a separate piece of paper and try to use them in a sentence.**

What can you remember now?

★ **<u>Underline</u> the correct definition of the words below.**

Does **mesmerising** mean 'something that is boring' or 'something that is really exciting'?

Is **turquoise** close to the colour blue or close to the colour red?

Does **trek** mean 'to run quickly' or 'to go on a difficult journey'?

Does **discovery** mean 'something you do all the time' or 'finding something for the first time'?

★ **<u>Challenge:</u> Now write some sentences using any of our new words. I have done one for you:**

The sky looked <u>turquoise</u> this morning.

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Jungle comprehension!

Here's a quick-fire reading quiz about my journey. Have a go and check your answers at the end of the booklet.

Which jungle is going to be explored?

List two things the explorer did before he left camp.

Give two reasons why the explorer left early at 6am?

Which word in the text means the same as *prickly*?

What did the tiny, yellow flowers smell of?

The fish in the plunge pool were hiding. True or false?

What useful things might the explorer have in his rucksack for exploring?

Why did the explorer measure the trees?

The explorer says: It reminded me of the beanstalk in a famous children's story. What story do you think he is talking about?

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10 things in an explorer's rucksack

Here's a poem I wrote when I got back from exploring Atlanti. It's a list poem and it is all the magical things I'd like to find in my rucksack.

10 Things in an Explorer's Rucksack

A sizzling sun beam scorching the sky,
The sound of rain splashing on mud,
A rhino's footprint,
A hat made of stars,
10000 leaf skeletons glittering in the wind,
The sweetest fruit from an ice cream tree,
A never-ending flapjack,
The smell of jungle clouds,
A feather from a Soupee bird,
A pair of very sore feet.

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Write a list poem

Now have a go at writing your own poem. What magical things would you like to find in your rucksack when you go exploring?

- ★ **Try to make your items sound exciting by using alliteration – where words start with the same sound e.g.** *sizzling sun, lazy lion, towering trees*
- ★ **Use precise, powerful verbs that show things in a more exciting way e.g.** *scorching, splashing, glittering*
- ★ **Choose unusual things to add to your bag. Be as inventive as you can e.g.** *a hat made of stars, boots made of spider webs*
- ★ **Exaggerate things. Make them:** *the biggest, the tallest, the sweetest, the fastest*
- ★ **Invent new things e.g.** *a Soupee bird, the smell of clouds*

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★ **Use this planner to help you sort your ideas for your poem. Then, using the tips above, write your poem on a separate piece of paper.**

Underlying structure	New poem ideas
Things you might see exploring e.g. *sizzling sun* *a rhino's footprint*	
The sound of something	
Unusual clothing	
A large number of something e.g. *10000 leaf skeletons*	
Something amazing growing in the jungle	
Something never-ending	
The smell of something	
Something that a creature left behind, e.g. *the feather from a Soupee*	
Something to show how you might feel or that you might have	

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Let's be explorers!

Imagine we have gone through the wardrobe together and we are in a new jungle. If I passed you my telescope, an instrument that makes far away objects look closer, what would you see through it? What would the new jungle be like? What weird and wonderful things would be in this new place?

★ <u>Creative challenge:</u> In the circle below, draw what you would see through my telescope.

★ Give your new jungle a name: _____

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Your log

★ **Now let's imagine we have explored our new jungle and you are going to write your explorer's log. Follow the same pattern as mine and use this planner to jot down the ideas for yours.**

Underlying structure	New ideas
State when the exploring happened, sum up the day & tell reader how you felt, e.g. *Today has been amazing. I was so …*	
What you did before you set off, e.g. *I put on my …*	
Event 1 – what happened? *First, …*	
Event 2 – what happened? *Next, …*	
Event 3 – what happened? *After a short break, …*	
Event 4 – what happened next? *Following that, …*	
Round off your report and tell the reader what you did at the end of the day. *Finally, …* *When I got back …*	

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Now for some grammar

Before you write your log, let's practise some sentences that will help you to write like an explorer.

More detail please

★ **You can add detail to your sentences by using the simple joining words *and* or *but*. For example:**

1. I trudged through the dense forest and collected samples of the plant life.
2. I tried to catch a fish but they were too fast for me.

Create sentences about your jungle and add detail using *and* or *but*.

Add in 'When'

★ **The log uses sentence signposts to tell the reader when something happened in the journey. The ones used in the log are known technically as 'fronted adverbials' – adverbs (or phrases beginning with adverbs) that are placed at the front of sentences to show us WHEN. These include:**

First, Next, After that, Then, Afterwards, After a while, Finally, When … ,

For example:

1. Next, I trekked to a clearing and found a beautiful plunge pool.
2. Finally, I headed back to camp because the sun began to set.

Redraft your sentences, using fronted adverbials to show WHEN things happened.

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Explain a bit more, please

★ **Now try practising some sentences that will help you explain what you were doing, using *because* to enable you to explain.**

For example: *Finally, I headed back to camp **because** it was getting late.*

Take sentences from your ideas above but try adding *because* to explain why you did something. Start your sentence with a fronted adverbial again. Remember, you can spin your sentence round and start with because, as well. For example:

1. First, I set out early because the jungle was far away.
2. Because the jungle was far away, the first thing I did was set out early.
3. After that, I packed my camera because I wanted to photograph the flowers.

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Write away!

Now you're ready to write your first Jungle Log!

★ **Use your plan (and the model for Atanti if it helps) to draft your log on a separate piece of paper.**

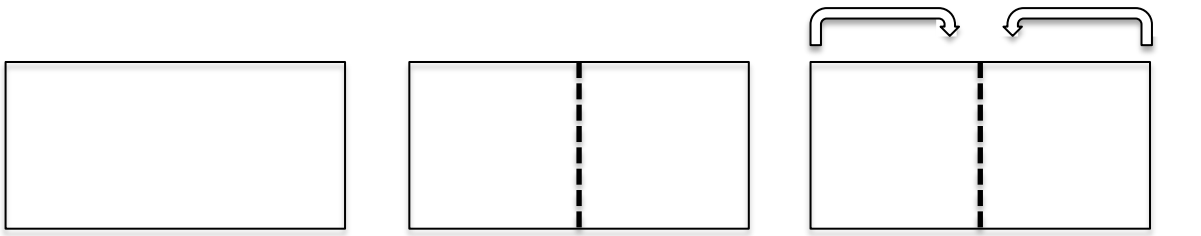
Remember to:

- **add detail to your sentences by using *and* or *but*;**
- **add explanation to your sentences using *because*;**
- **use fronted adverbials like *After that* or *because*, to start some sentences;**
- **check your capital letters at the start of sentences, full stops at the end and commas after a fronted adverbial or the phrase introduced by the fronted adverbial.**

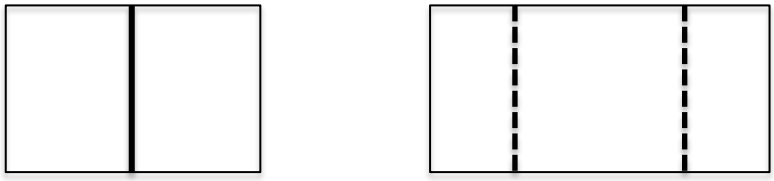
★Don't forget to read your work and check it flows and makes sense.

Well done! **How about publishing your log? Follow the instructions below to make a fold-out log. Draw your jungle on the front and write your log inside!**

How to make an explorer log



A4 paper | Fold it in half | Fold each side into the middle



You have a log! | Write inside and draw your jungle on the front

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Our final mission: studying a Soupee bird!

In my poem, I had the feather from a Soupee bird. I'd love to photograph one for my collection but they are very shy creatures and always hide away. However, I have a cunning plan that would allow me to see one up close!

Here are the instructions:

Listen to a recording of the text below here:
https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/soupee/s-NGvL24j8TWf

How to uncover a Soupee bird

Are you mesmerised by the rare Soupee bird? Would you love to photograph this magnificent creature up close? If so, read on to find out how!

What you need:

- A long rope
- A net full of chocolate buttons
- Classical music (saved on your phone or iPod)
- Perfume that smells like flowers
- Dry leaves from the jungle
- A good camera

What you do:

1. First, trek deep into the jungle where the trees are dense. Always make sure you wear sturdy boots to do this.
2. Next, choose a tree with a wide trunk and loop your rope over the lowest branch.
3. After that, carefully tie your net of chocolate buttons to both ends of the rope so it hangs from the branch. Check the knot is tight.
4. Then, crouch behind the tree, spray yourself with the perfume and cover your hat with leaves. This will camouflage you.
5. As soon as you are hidden, play the classical music.

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6. Next, wait patiently. The Soupee will be so tempted by the aroma of chocolate buttons and the beautiful sound of the classical music, it will leave its hiding place. It will discover the buttons and will peck at them whilst enjoying the music.
7. Finally, peek around the tree and take your chance to photograph the bird. Make sure you are really quiet or you will scare it away.
8. Now you have your precious photograph!

Warning: Never use white chocolate buttons as they might attract giant jungle pythons.

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Glossary

Here are the definitions of some of the technical vocabulary:

***crouch**: bend your knees and curl yourself in to get your body as low as possible*

***camouflage**: a way of hiding by covering yourself so you blend into your surroundings*

***classical music**: serious music following a long tradition*

***tempted:** to be attracted to do something that you probably shouldn't.*

***aroma**: the smell of something, usually something pleasant.*

Let's innovate!

★ **What mysterious, rare thing would you love to see up close? What would you like to photograph? A fairy? A giant? A wizard? A Pokemon? A minotaur? A T-rex? A mermaid? A unicorn? Something else? Write it below:**

I would like to see a …

★ **Design Challenge: What would tempt them out of their hiding place? On the next page, use the space to draw and label a trap to tempt your creature out of its hiding place.**

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Now write your instructions. Let's imitate the language and structure of mine to help you write yours.

- ★ **Ask 2 questions to introduce the instructions:** **Are you** mesmerised by the rare Soupee bird? **Would you** love to photograph this magnificent creature up close?
- ★ **Use fronted adverbials to order the steps for the reader:** **First,** trek deep into the jungle where the trees are dense. **Next,** wait patiently.
- ★ **Tell your reader what to do by using *bossy,* imperative verbs:** **trek** deep into the jungle, **peek** around the tree, **choose** a tree with a wide trunk, **play** the classical music
- ★ **Extend detail with a sentence of 3 things:** Then, **crouch** behind the tree, **spray** yourself with the perfume and **cover** your hat with leaves
- ★ **Round off with a warning:** Never use … Beware … Do not …

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★ **Now plan your instructions for setting up the trap. Use the planner below (and my instructions) to help you.**

Underlying structure	Jot down your ideas in note form
Ask a question to the reader to draw them in, e.g. *Are you …* *Would you …*	
What you need: List of items needed for the trap	
What you do: The steps you need to set up the trap. Use your adverbs to show the order *First,* *Next,* *After that,* *Then,* *Now,* *Finally,*	
Final word of warning	

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Write away!

Now you're ready to write your instructions! Use your plan and draft them on a separate piece of paper and don't forget to check the punctuation and flow. Does it sound bossy enough?

Well done! You've done a great job completing the activities.

Do you want to do more writing?

If you want to do more writing, you could try some INVENTING by using what you have learnt at school already. Here are a few ideas:

★ **Write a story where your main character has an adventure in a magical jungle. Use a story pattern that you know or use this basic structure:**

Once upon a time, …

One day, …

Unfortunately, …

Luckily, …

In the end, …

★ **Write another list poem about somewhere else you could explore. Use the title:** *Through my telescope, I saw …*

★ **Write an information text about the creature that you captured in your trap.**

★ **Write a letter to a friend telling them about your exploring. Ask them to plan a trip with you.**

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Jungle comprehension answers

★ **Here's the answers. How did you do?**

Which jungle is going to be explored?
The Atlanti Jungle is going to be explored.

List two things the explorer did before he left camp.
You could have: *packed his bag, put on his boots, checked his camera.*

Give two reasons why the explorer left early at 6am?
You could have any answer along the lines of:
He wanted to make the most of a full day of exploring.
The jungle was far away, so he needed time to get to it.
It was cooler to trek in the morning, before the sun was hot.
He has woken up, so there was no point in waiting to go out.

Which word in the text means the same as *prickly*?
The word thorny.

What did the tiny, yellow flowers smell of?
The flowers smelt of ice cream.

The fish in the plunge pool were hiding. True or false?
False. (They were splashing on the surface).

What useful things might the explorer have in his rucksack for exploring?
You could list any useful exploring things like: *a map, sunglasses, food, a camera, a notebook, bug spray, sun cream, a torch, a water bottle, clean socks, a book to read.*

Why did the explorer measure the trees?
The explorer measured the trees to find out how old they were.

The explorer says: It reminded me of the beanstalk in a famous children's story. What story do you think he is talking about?
The story is 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

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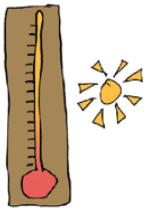
So long! We've reached the end of our journey and it's time for me to explore again. I hope you've had fun and enjoyed your writing! Why not rate your journey with me. Put a star along the scale to show how much you enjoyed it:



My favourite parts of the booklet were …

This booklet helped me learn …

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Maria Richards, former teacher and National Strategy Literacy Consultant, now works with Talk for Writing to help schools develop the approach.

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Thanks to Jon Ralphs for cartoon designs.