

Outdoor Learning Contexts for Writing - Four Writing Styles and 9 Text Types

The Active Literacy Team in EA have produced an overview grid to ensure coverage across all writing styles. EAC LOST have filled the grid with suggestions for writing contexts which make use of the opportunities afforded by outdoor learning pedagogy. Outdoor settings provide space, stimulation for all the senses, direct engagement with real world issues, opportunities to make noise, experiment and work in large groups or individually. In outdoor settings, learners can engage with both the man made and natural worlds. Use the hyperlinks to find supporting resources for suggested activities. The final page of this document has further information on how outdoor learning is used to increase engagement and raise attainment.

The suggestions below are stimuli and contexts for writing. The Active Literacy Team have created comprehensive resources to support teaching and learning in Literacy and English – including SAC COW (Creating Outstanding Writing). These can be found on Glow and MS Teams.

Writing Style	Text Type	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Descriptive	Description	Make a clay/stick character describe your character and the outdoor space where she/he lives	Write a Wild Poem Use your senses to explore an outdoor space. 1. Put collected items in a feely bag. Identify objects by description only. 2. Go on a perfume walk – identify and describe the smells. 3. Collect and describe sounds How to Make a Sound Map 4. Go on a shape/size/colour hunt. Use the bank of descriptions to write a class poem about the 'wild space' you have explored.	Touch 3 Game This game allows the adult to introduce descriptive vocabulary. Learners go on to set the challenges using their own descriptions. Autumn – IDL Game , Touch 3 Then Me Can be used at any time of the year!	Weather Wizard Use your senses and describe how weather looks, feels, smells ... Repeat in different weather to create a bank of descriptions. From a selection of activities at RSPB Wild Challenge for Schools	Group Folding Poem Explore the changing seasons using at least 4 of your 5 senses and work in groups of 3 to write a poem using variety of adjectives or figurative speech Group Folding Poem	Frame a view using fingers, sticks or a picture frame. Describe what you see using figurative language	Tree Poetry Learn to look closely and describe a tree you perhaps pass every day. Tree Poetry and Resources
		Clay/figure adventures (see above) leave your character outdoors over night and describe their adventures.	Have an adventure in the playground Story Safari Lesson Plan using Teacher in Role and 6 part story board	When the Dinosaur Came to School Use an MNU activity to reveal the actual size of a dinosaur and as a springboard for imaginative writing. Measurement - Creating a Dinosaur! and Diplodocus Scale Picture	Tiny Adventure Comic Strip Use magnifiers to locate and explore a tiny setting for a Tiny Adventure Story . Use Accompanying Story Frame to create a comic strip version.	The Journey As part of a mapping topic & after reading stories of exploration use an outdoor space to map out an imaginative story highlighting important locations on the journey. Your map becomes part of your writing plan. MNU 2nd Level Map and Compass Topic	Send Harry Potter on a New Adventure Take Harry Potter (or any other character!) on an adventure overcoming challenges on the way. See Friday - Maps and stories	The Great Adventure Explore the life of an adventurer. Have a your own micro adventure. LochDown Lodge - The Alternative Residential 2021 , Fire Lighting and Managing Risk lesson plan and Lighting a Fire Protocol and Fire Safety Flash Write a new adventure for a fictional explorer.
Narrative	Narrative	Clay/figure adventures (see above) leave your character outdoors over night and describe their adventures.	Have an adventure in the playground Story Safari Lesson Plan using Teacher in Role and 6 part story board	When the Dinosaur Came to School Use an MNU activity to reveal the actual size of a dinosaur and as a springboard for imaginative writing. Measurement - Creating a Dinosaur! and Diplodocus Scale Picture	Tiny Adventure Comic Strip Use magnifiers to locate and explore a tiny setting for a Tiny Adventure Story . Use Accompanying Story Frame to create a comic strip version.	The Journey As part of a mapping topic & after reading stories of exploration use an outdoor space to map out an imaginative story highlighting important locations on the journey. Your map becomes part of your writing plan. MNU 2nd Level Map and Compass Topic	Send Harry Potter on a New Adventure Take Harry Potter (or any other character!) on an adventure overcoming challenges on the way. See Friday - Maps and stories	The Great Adventure Explore the life of an adventurer. Have a your own micro adventure. LochDown Lodge - The Alternative Residential 2021 , Fire Lighting and Managing Risk lesson plan and Lighting a Fire Protocol and Fire Safety Flash Write a new adventure for a fictional explorer.

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Expository	Report	Write a Hedgehog Report Learn about hedgehogs, their needs and how we can help them. Make Outdoor Spaces Hedgehog Friendly Report on what you have learned.	Wildlife Area Visit and Bug Hunt Visit an outdoor space and using bug pots and id Collect and id – recount and write	Litter Pick and Report Report on findings and make suggestions for change. Litter pick and audit (taken from How the Pirates Turned the Tide)	Local Landmark/Monument Report Visit within the local community, research and report as part of a Heritage Heroes award.	Don't be a Oncler Monitor the number of single use plastic bottles going into recycling bins (at home or school). Take the plastic bottle challenge and Invent new uses for plastic bottles. The Lorax - Technologies Activities	Citizen Science Visit wildlife space at different times of the year and survey – write a report showing the changes season to season. TCV Scotland Citizen Science Overview	Write a Life of John Muir as part of a John Muir Award John Muir Award in East Ayrshire
	Explanation	Create a Rainbow Use water and light to cast the colours of the rainbow on paper. See Noah's Ark - Make a Rainbow Early Level RME as stimulus.	Paint with Soil Use soil and water to make new pigment that you can paint with. Explain what has happened to the soil. Creating Natural Paints and Dyes	What is compost and what makes it important Explore soil and learn how to make compost using RHS Growing Topic - Earth Matters	Food Webs Use diagrams to explain how energy is passed through a variety of local food webs. Eco Systems and Food Chain Investigations	The Water Cycle Make a model to demonstrate the processes and write an explanation The Water Cycle	Pollinators Explain the needs of and role of pollinators in preserving biodiversity. Second Level Living Things Lesson plans	Fire Lighting Use fire and fire lighting as the stimuli for a investigation of processes. Fire Lighting and Managing Risk lesson plan and Lighting a Fire Protocol and Fire Safety Flash teacher resources.
	Procedure	Make a simple bird feeder Make Simple Bird Feeders as part of your RSPB Wild Challenge.	How to grow flowers from seed Grow Nasturtiums from Seed	Waterproof materials experiment Build a shelter for a toy using a variety of materials. Is this Waterproof? - A Materials Investigation	Build a Boat Use Building a boat from How the Pirates Turned the Tide Activities	Den Building Instructions Experiment with den designs and write instructions for the most successful. See Woodland Trust ideas How to Build Dens	How to make a simple sundial Watch the videos, make a sundial and write instructions. Make a Sundial	How to plant and care for trees Involve pupils in developing a wildlife area. Tree Planting and Tree Care or Planting Willow - Writing Instructions
	Recount	Recall and recount a journey After a short journey outdoors, recount the sequence of events. Can be a short journey within the school grounds or beyond the school gate. Journey Sticks	Outdoor Celebration Celebrate and mark the changing seasons outdoors. Recall and recount from planning and preparation to the event itself.	Visit to local green space Explore local greenspace and recount your planning, journey and learning. Beyond Your Boundary - Easy Steps to Learning in Local Greenspace will show you how to make the first steps.	What we did to earn our award Recount the steps required to achieve Heritage Heroes award. See Crosshouse Primary school achieve their Heritage Heroes Award	Share school grown plants with a local residential home or day centre Record the process from deciding what to grow to passing them on to the community.	Sports Day Make a report on school sports day to share on school blog, at assembly or write up as sports news item.	John Muir Award Celebration and Share Event Present on work done towards the award. John Muir Award

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Persuasive	Persuasive Text	Please Pick up Your Dog Mess . Make signs to display in local greenspace being used for learning.	Pick up and recycle your litter signs as part of Eco Schools bid	Why do we need outdoor space to play?	(Rubbish) Treasure Hunt Find the rubbish and find out how long it takes for the various items to break down. Persuade your community to recycle rather than litter From . The Lorax - Social Studies Activities	Why Adventure? Why do we all need a bit of adventure in our lives? Rewilding Young People – Adventure and Exploration Outdoors	Why Rewilding? Make the case for a wildlife area in the schools grounds. Rewilding Nature – Growing for Wildlife	Why Conserve? Make the case for conserving a local greenspace. Can be done as part of a John Muir Award .
	Response	Make Music Outdoors and feedback responses to peers. For ideas for making your own musical instruments from scrap materials Kinder Art – Musical Instruments (taken from Horton Hears a Who! - Expressive Arts Activities)	Perform songs/poems outdoors and feedback responses to peers. E.g. Perform pieces learned for Burns celebrations.	Outdoor Art Exhibition Use Paint Like Jackson Pollock Lesson Plan and Jackson Pollock example and hold an outdoor art exhibition	Local History or Local Biographical Work Write a response having explored the context for the work.	Poems Outdoors Match the location of the performance to the setting of the poem. See John Muir Trust and The Lost Words Initiative and The Scottish Book Trust to explore poetry inspired by different settings.	Book/Novel Use a book with an outdoor/environmental theme as the theme for an IDL topic to help learners make connections in learning. Literacy out of the Box resource includes IDL topics based on texts (fiction and non-fiction) from Early to Second Level.	Perform a Play Outdoors and feedback to peers. Use work from elsewhere in learning as stimuli for writing and performing. See WWII Home Front
	Discussion or Balanced Argument					What should we do with the school field? Many schools have a 'field' for sports and play. Long grass is good for biodiversity and play. How do we meet both sets of requirements. Press Release - Making the Cut Biodiversity and Grass Cutting in EAC School Grounds	Endangered Habitat Discuss the need to protect wildplaces vs the needs of farmers, road builders, leisure spaces, homes. Endangered Habitat Game and lesson plan.	Local Issue Explore a local issue/challenge using the WOSDEC Issue Tree Tool Allow groups to work on the task on a larger scale using your outdoor space. See Making an Issue Tree Outdoors .

For information on **general resources and support** for Outdoor Learning in Scotland:


[Education Scotland Improvement Hub – Summary of Outdoor Learning Resources](#) links to key documents, policy, rational and professional learning (including SAPOE modules below).

Who is this for? ... practitioners from all sectors and also educational decision-makers and leaders.

[Education Scotland Improvement Hub - Summary of Learning for Sustainability Resources](#) includes key strategic information, key resources, information on Climate Change and COP26 Climate Summit and more.

[Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education \(SAPOE\)](#) is the forum for representatives from Local Authorities across Scotland to consider and debate best practice in the development and safe delivery of Outdoor Learning. See also SAPOE [CLPL and Training](#)

[Outdoor Learning Directory](#) aims to provide a portal to services supporting outdoor learning.



Small steps

- Introduce the outside inside**
 - Introduce natural materials
 - Go outside to collect artefacts/information then return in
- Meet pupils outside**
 - Go out after or before lunch or break – stay out for 15 mins
 - Use the journey to and from classroom as part of the lesson
- Make outdoor lessons Routine and Expected**
 - Be comfortable; appropriate clothing for all
 - Build up confidence, skills and experience
 - Discuss and create boundaries and expectations with the pupils
- Be flexible**
 - Be spontaneous where appropriate
 - Allow for pupil led learning
 - Encourage creativity



WHY LEARN OUTDOORS?

- MESS
- RISK
- SPACE
- NOISE
- ARTEFACTS
- AUTHENTICITY

MRS NAA

[HGIOS4 - OL references](#) document cites all the references to outdoor learning and Learning for Sustainability from How Good is Our School 4 and was created by Willie White, EAC LOST.