

# Key Literacy Vocabulary

## Great sentence starters

- Although ...
- As ...
- As I see it ...
- At one point ...
- Despite the fact that ...
- Even though ...
- Finally ...
- For example ...
- Furthermore ...
- Gradually ...
- I believe that ...
- If ...
- In addition ...
- In conclusion ...
- In general ...
- In my view ...
- In spite of ...
- I would like to ...
- Meanwhile ...
- Moreover ...
- Nevertheless ...
- So ...
- Subsequently ...
- Therefore ...
- Whilst ...

## Descriptive writing

Some adjectives to introduce children to

### Describing characters

aggressive	blunt	charitable	deranged	elegant
ambitious	bold	chivalrous	determined	energetic
amiable	boisterous	compliant	deceitful	enigmatic
anxious	bombastic	conceited	decent	entertaining

arrogant	caring	conscientious	defiant	enthusiastic
assertive	carefree	confident	diligent	feeble
astute	candid	considerate	dishonest	flippant
avaricious	cantankerous	contrary	disrespectful	formidable
bashful	capricious	convincing	dour	frank
belligerent	casual	cranky	dynamic	frugal
benevolent	cautious	creative	eccentric	gallant

generous	hyperactive	knowledgeable	narrow minded	patient
genial	ignorant	level headed	neurotic	persistent
gentle	immature	loathsome	obdurate	pessimistic
gregarious	impatient	malicious	obedient	phlegmatic
grotesque	inconsiderate	malingering	obliging	placid
heroic	independent	mature	obstinate	pompous
hostile	insensitive	mEEK	obnoxious	precocious
humane	irritating	modest	optimistic	prickly
humble	jaunty	miserly	outspoken	proud
humourous	joyial	mournful	overbearing	pugnacious

pusillanimous	responsible	sensitive	surly	unpredictable
quarrelsome	rowdy	sharp	sympathetic	unruly
reckless	ruthless	spiteful	temperamental	unscrupulous
repulsive	sarcastic	squeamish	tenacious	vain
resilient	scheming	stern	thoughtful	valiant
resourceful	self-centred	stubborn	treacherous	vicious
respectful	self-conscious	sulky	truculent	violent

**Some adjectives to describe settings in a narrative**

attractive	crowded	glittering	peaceful	secluded
barren	deserted	gloomy	picturesque	sedate
beautiful	desolate	glum	placid	shaded
bleak	dingy	isolated	polluted	spacious
built-up	drab	lively	pulsating	stunning
cluttered	dreary	luxurious	quaint	tranquil
colourful	dusty	magnificent	remote	vibrant
cosmopolitan	eerie	modern	restful	warm
cosy	exquisite	mysterious	rural	welcoming

cramped	extravagant	old fashioned	scenic	windswept
---------	-------------	---------------	--------	-----------

### Some adverbs to describe actions in narratives

accidentally	bravely	courageously	energetically	gallantly
admiringly	carefully	courteously	equisitely	generously
adoringly	carelessly	decisively	erratically	gently
aggressively	caringly	defiantly	excitedly	gingerly
angrily	casually	desperately	expressively	gracefully
anxiously	cautiously	determinedly	ferociously	graciously
assuredly	clumsily	disrespectfully	firmly	gratefully
awkwardly	confidently	ecstatically	foolishly	harshly
beautifully	continually	eloquently	forcefully	hesitantly
boldly	convincingly	emphatically	frankly	hysterically

imaginatively	menacingly	persistently	sarcastically	thoughtlessly
impatiently	modestly	persuasively	sensitively	timidly
impressively	needlessly	promptly	spitefully	urgently
insensitively	negatively	proudly	surreptitiously	vaguely
instantly	nervously	pessimistically	suspiciously	viciously
instinctively	nonchalantly	rapidly	sympathetically	violently
lazily	optimistically	reluctantly	tantalizingly	willingly
loosely	painstakingly	resentfully	tenderly	wisely
maliciously	patiently	resourcefully	theatrically	wistfully
majestically	perilously	respectfully	thoughtfully	worriedly

## Explanatory texts

### Opening statements

- This article will . . .
- The purpose of this article is to . . .
- This explanation is intended to . . .
- This article is designed to . . .
- The following information . . .
- I will try to . . .
- I will attempt to . . .

- It can be difficult to ... so ...
- Firstly I will ...
- Following that I intend to ...
- I am going to ...
- The purpose of this explanation is to help ...

### **Time connectives**

- To begin with ...
- Next ...
- After that
- Following that ...
- After a while ...
- Wait a moment before ...
- Before long ...
- After a minute ...
- First ...
- First of all ...
- Firstly ...
- Next ...
- After ...
- Afterwards ...
- After that ...
- When ...
- At this point ...
- Lastly ...
- Finally ...
- Subsequently ...

### **Causal connectives**

- So ...
- This causes ...
- As a result ...
- This results in ...
- This leads to ...
- This is because ...
- This was because ...
- Because ...
- Therefore ...
- Furthermore ...

### **Other useful phrases**

- In addition . . .
- Everyone understands that . . .
- Nobody knows why . . .
- Many people believe . . .
- I believe that . . .
- It is true to say that . . .

### **Information texts (non-chronological reports)**

#### **Opening statements**

- This article will . . .
- The purpose of this article is to . . .
- The information presented will . . .
- This article is designed to . . .
- The following information . . .
- I will try to . . .
- I will attempt to . . .
- It can be difficult to . . . so . . .
- Firstly I will . . .
- I am going to . . .
- Each paragraph . . .

#### **Factual sentence starters for information texts**

- \_\_\_\_\_ are . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ is . . .
- They are . . .
- They are also . . .
- They like to . . .
- They don't like . . .
- They avoid . . . because . . .
- They don't . . .
- It doesn't . . .
- They can . . .
- It can . . .
- Instead they . . .
- In addition, . . .
- Usually . . .
- Generally . . .

- Normally ...
- As a rule ...
- Frequently ...
- They can be ...
- They are usually ... (It is usually ...)
- They are rarely ... (It is rarely ...)
- They are never ... (It is never ...)
- They are a very ... (It is a very ...)
- Like many ...
- Unlike ...
- This is a ...
- Although ...
- Even though ...
- Despite ...
- Despite the fact that ...
- Sometimes ...
- Often ...
- Frequently they ...
- Be careful if you ...
- More than half ...
- Less than half ...
- Most ...

## **Instructions**

- First ...
- First of all ...
- To start with ...
- Firstly ...
- Next ...
- After ...
- Afterwards ...
- After that ...
- When ...
- At this point ...
- Lastly ...
- Finally ...

## **More advanced language constructions**

- To begin with ...

- Begin by ...
- Secondly ...
- The next step is to ...
- Continue by ...
- Carry on ...
- Do this until ...
- Stop when ...
- When you have done this ...
- Try to ...
- Try not to ...
- Avoid ...
- Don't forget to ...
- Be careful of ...
- Don't worry about ...
- Concentrate on ...
- Focus on ...
- Try to make sure that ...
- Whatever you do, don't ...
- I would suggest that ...
- To conclude ...
- Before ... remember to ...
- Whilst you are ...
- Use the time you are waiting to ...
- If you find that ... then ...
- If ... doesn't ...

## **Letter writing**

### **Openings**

- I would like to inform you that ...
- It has come to my attention that ...
- I am grateful to you for ...
- I wish to ...
- I wish to express ...
- I would like to ...
- Thank you for ...
- It is with much pride that I can confirm that ...
- It is with regret that ...
- I am delighted to inform you that ...
- I write to you because ...

### **Useful expressions**

- Please accept my . . .
- I hope that . . .
- I trust that . . .
- It concerns me that . . .
- I wonder if you would be kind enough to . . .
- I would be grateful if . . .
- It would be helpful if . . .
- I wonder if . . .
- As I see it . . .
- I would rather not . . .
- I appreciate that . . .
- It is for this reason that . . .

### **Closing remarks**

- I look forward to hearing from you in due course
- An early response would be greatly appreciated
- I trust that this is all in order
- Thank you once again for . . .
- Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

### **Narratives**

#### **Words/phrases signifying the passage of time**

- Instantly
- Immediately
- Just at that moment
- Before long
- So
- Presently
- Soon
- Later
- Afterwards
- After a while
- Much later
- At last
- In a flash
- In next to no time
- Within seconds

- Next day
- The next evening
- Eventually
- Towards nightfall
- At dawn
- At dusk
- As the sun set
- Simultaneously
- Finally

### **Words/phrases that create more complex sentence constructions**

- Sometimes
- Moreover
- However
- In spite of
- Nevertheless
- Surprisingly
- Strangely
- Similarly
- Incidentally
- Ironically
- Despite the fact that
- Even though
- Whilst
- Although
- Unusually
- In contrast
- Unknown to . . .
- Unable to . . .
- Without noticing that . . .

### **Words/phrases to change the focus of the story**

- Suddenly
- Meanwhile
- Not far away
- Some distance away
- While
- During

## **Persuasive writing**

### **Phrases using that**

- I believe that ...
- I think that ...
- It seems to me that ...
- It is clear that ...
- It strikes me that ...
- There is no doubt that ... (There can be no doubt that ...)
- I am convinced that ...
- It appears that ...
- It is obvious that ...

### **Rhetorical questions**

- Is it any wonder that ...?
- Don't you think ...?
- Isn't it clear that ...?
- Isn't it the case that ...?
- How can anyone believe this to be true?
- Does anyone really believe that ...?

### **Other phrases to start a sentence with**

- In my opinion ...
- As I see it ...
- As everyone knows ...
- Clearly ...
- Obviously ...
- Inevitably ...
- My own view is ...

### **Initial phrases followed by a comma**

- Surely,
- Firstly,
- Secondly,
- Thirdly,
- In addition,
- Furthermore,
- Moreover,

### **Phrases to use when providing evidence**

- For example,
- I cite, as an example . . .
- My evidence to support this is . . .
- I would draw your attention to . . .
- I would refer to . . .

### **Phrases to finish off with**

- My last point is . . .
- My final point is . . .
- Finally,
- In conclusion,
- In summary,
- To conclude I would like to say . . .
- On the basis of the evidence presented . . .
- On balance . . .
- The evidence presented supports the view that . . .
- It is my sincere belief that . . .

## 15) Recounts

### Useful language constructions

- Last week we ...
- First ...
- Next ...
- After ...
- Afterwards ...
- After that ...
- When ...
- Suddenly ...
- Just then ..
- Soon ...
- Meanwhile ...
- Finally ...
- So
- Later on
- Before long
- Next
- Moments later
- Seconds later
- Much later
- Within minutes
- At that very moment
- At precisely
- Presently
- In a flash
- When this was complete ...
- Eventually

### **More advanced language constructions**

- To begin with . . .
- Before long . . .
- Eventually . . .
- As it happened . . .
- As a result of . . .
- Consequently . . .
- Subsequently . . .

### **Evidence of viewpoint**

- I found it interesting when . . .
- My favourite activity was . . .
- It was funny when . . .
- I liked the part when . . .
- I didn't enjoy . . .
- The best part was . . .
- The worst part was . . .
- I was surprised that . . .
- I was pleased that . . .
- I didn't expect that . . .
- It was difficult to . . .