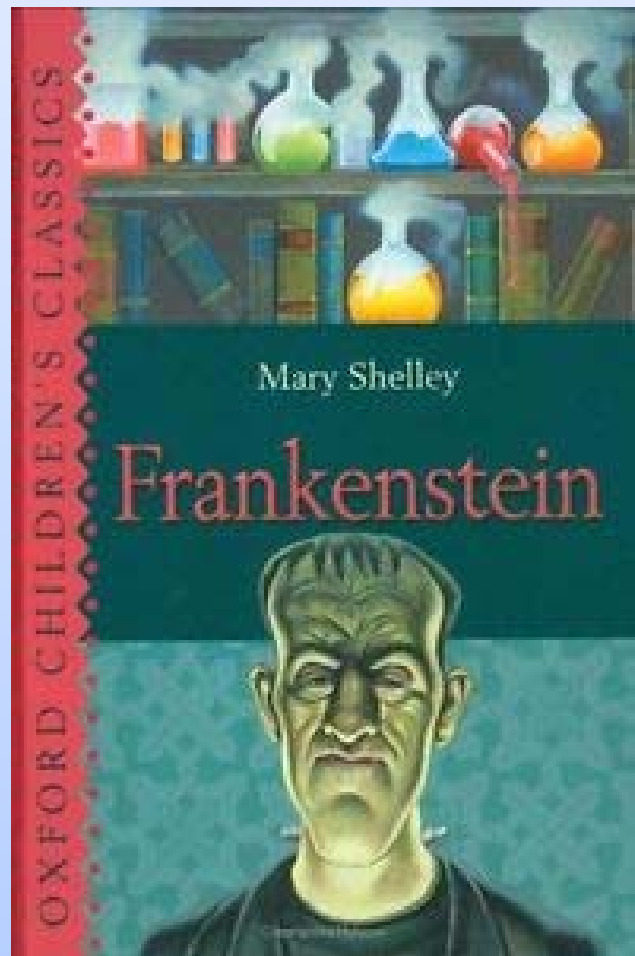
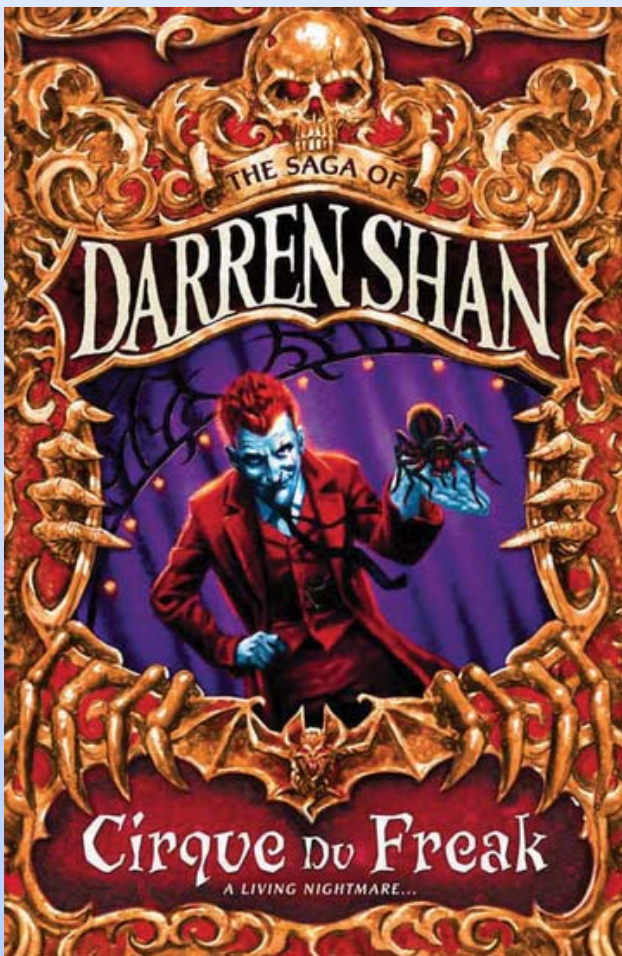


Freaky Fiction



Year 6 summer project

Name: _____

Primary School: _____

Form Group: _____

A message for Parents, Carers and Students

This work book is designed to help our new students maintain and develop their literacy skills over the summer holiday between year 6 and year 7. Students can often seem to go through a 'dip' in their literacy during this long break, which can have an impact on their learning across all subjects. By completing the activities in this booklet, students will be practising and using a wide range of literacy skills, including: reading extracts from texts, producing different types of writing, and practising word and sentence level skills. Hopefully, they will also enjoy the activities and challenges the booklet provides!

Students should attempt as many of the activities as they are able to, and all work completed should be handed to your child's English teacher at the start of year 7. Students' efforts will be rewarded with homework Griffins.

We understand that the students who come to our school have a range of abilities in literacy, so we have provided examples of sentences your child can use. We don't expect all students to complete all activities in the booklet – parents and students can identify the most suitable ones together.

We look forward to working with students and families on developing literacy in the future.



What is the title of your favourite book?

Why is this book your favourite?

Reading List

We encourage all students to read as widely as possible – it helps them to learn how to use language, as well as providing enjoyment. Here are some suggestions if you're stuck for ideas on what to read next:

Recent Releases:

- Ministry of Pandemonium
- Firelight
- Everybody Jam
- Clash
- A Trick of the Dark
- Goblin Quest
- Russian Roulette

Chris Westwood
Sophie Jordan
Ali Lewis
Colin Mulhern
B R Collins
Philip Reeve
Anthony Horowitz

Award Winners:

- Hacker
- Flour Babies
- The Wall
- Skulduggery Pleasant
- Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief
- Private Peaceful
- Geek Girl

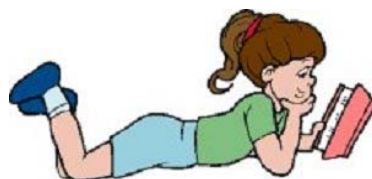
Malorie Blackman
Anne Fine
William Sutcliffe
Derek Landy
Rick Riordan
Michael Morpurgo
Holly Smale

Never Judge a Book by its Movie:

- Twilight
- Harry Potter
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
- Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging
- Alice in Wonderland
- The Hunger Games
- A Christmas Carol

Stephenie Meyer
J. K. Rowling
John Boyne
Louise Rennison
Lewis Carroll
Suzanne Collins
Charles Dickens

Try www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk for more ideas! Use Amazon or Oxfam for great deals on books, or visit your local library.



Read this extract from chapter 8 of ‘Cirque Du Freak’ by Darren Shan. In the extract, the two main characters, Darren and Steve, have just arrived at the freak show and met Mr Tall.

“Can I help you boys?” somebody said behind us, and we nearly jumped out of our skins! We turned around quickly and the tallest man in the world was standing there, glaring down on us as if we were a couple of rats. He was so tall, his head almost touched the ceiling. He had huge bony hands and eyes that were so dark, they looked like two black coals stuck in the middle of his face.

“Isn’t it rather late for two little boys like yourselves to be out and about?” he asked. His voice was as deep and croaky as a frog’s, but his lips hardly seemed to move. He would have made a great ventriloquist.

“We...” Steve began but had to stop and lick his lips before he could continue. “We’re here to see the Cirque Du Freak,” he said.

“Are you?” The man nodded slowly. “Do you have tickets?”

“Yes,” Steve said, and showed his.

“Very good,” the man muttered. Then he turned to me and said: “How about you, Darren? Do you have a ticket?”

“Yes,” I said, reaching into my pocket. Then I stopped dead in my tracks. *He knew my name!* I glanced at Steve, and he was shaking in his boots.

The tall man smiled. He had black teeth and some were missing, and his tongue was a dirty shade of yellow. “My name is Mr Tall,” he said. “I own the Cirque Du Freak.”

“How did you know my friend’s name?” Steve asked bravely.

Mr Tall laughed and bent down, so he was eyeball-to-eyeball with Steve. “I know lots of things,” he said softly. “I know your names. I know where you live. I know you don’t like your mummy or your daddy.” He turned to face me and I took a step back. His breath stank to the high heavens. “I know you didn’t tell your parents you were coming here. And I know how you won your ticket.”

“How?” I asked. My teeth were shaking so much, I wasn’t sure if he heard me or not. If he did, he decided not to answer because next he stood up and turned away from us.

“We must hurry,” he said, beginning to walk. I thought he would take giant steps, but he didn’t, he took short ones. “The show is about to begin. Everyone else is present and seated. You are late, boys. You’re lucky we didn’t start without you.”

He turned a corner at the end of the corridor. He was only two or three steps in front of us, but when we turned the corner, he was sitting behind a long table covered with a black cloth which reached down to the floor. He was wearing a tall red hat now, and a pair of gloves.

“Tickets, please,” he said, reached out, took them, opened his mouth and put the tickets in, then chewed them to pieces and swallowed!

“Very well,” he said. “You may go in now. We normally don’t welcome children, but I can see you are two fine, courageous young men. We will make an exception.”




There were two blue curtains in front of us, drawn across the end of the hall. Steve and me looked at each other and gulped.

Chapter 8 ends with the following:

For a few seconds more – silence. Then the trumpets blew again, three short blasts. The rug came flying off the cage and the first freak was revealed. That was when the screaming began.

Task 1: Design and describe the first freak. Who could be in the cage? What do they look like? What do they sound like? How can you create a picture of the freak in your reader's head?

Can you use a range of sentence structures in your writing? Try and include these Alan Peat sentences. You will use Alan Peat sentences in year 7. You may have used these at your Primary School, but don't worry if you haven't.

Sentence Type	Symbol	Sentence example
2Ad sentences	A A	He had a big, red hat.
Noun, which / who / where,		The boy, who was ready to win , placed himself in the starting blocks.
2 pairs sentences		Exhausted and worried, cold and hungry , they did not know how much further they had to go.
3 bad – question?	Bad, bad, bad -?	Greed, jealousy, hatred – which of these was Voldermort's worst trait?
Getting Worse		The situation was becoming dangerous, desperate, Earth-shattering .

Read this extract from chapter 5 of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'. In this extract, Victor Frankenstein is describing the monster he's created.

IT WAS on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! -- Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

Task 2: Can you answer the following questions?

1. Circle the adjective which describes the night. Write a word which has a similar meaning here: _____
2. Which word in the first sentence means 'work'? _____
3. Underline the verb which describes how the rain fell on the windows. Write a different verb that would also describe the rain here: _____
4. Highlight the colour of the monster's hair. Write a simile or a metaphor to describe the hair here:

5. Victor's candle was nearly burnt out, and there would be shadows on the wall. Write a sentence to describe the shadows; try to use personification:

Read this extract from chapter 13 of 'Cirque Du Freak' by Darren Shan. In the extract, Darren and Steve are leaving the show, but there's a surprise waiting for them.

I was a bit disappointed it had ended so weakly, but it was late and I suppose the freaks were tired. I got to my feet, picked up the stuff I'd bought, and turned to say something to Steve.

He was looking behind me, up at the balcony, his eyes wide. I turned to see what he was looking at, and as I did, people behind us began to scream. When I looked up I saw why. There was a huge snake up on the balcony, one of the longest I had ever seen, and it was sliding down one of the poles towards the people at the bottom.

The snake's tongue flicked in and out of its mouth and it seemed mighty hungry. It wasn't very colourful – dark green, with a few flecks of brighter colours here and there – but it looked deadly.

The people beneath the balcony ran back towards their seats. They were screaming and dropping stuff as they ran. A few people fainted and some fell and were crushed. Steve and me were lucky to be near the front; we were the smallest people in the theatre and would have been trampled to dust if we'd been caught in the rush.

The snake was about to slither onto the floor when a strong light fixed itself to the snake's face. The reptile froze and stared into the light without blinking. People stopped running and the panic died down. Those who had fallen pulled themselves back to their feet, and fortunately, nobody appeared badly hurt.

There was a sound behind us. I turned to look back at the stage. A boy was up there. He was about fourteen or fifteen, very thin, with long yellowy, green hair. His eyes were oddly shaped, narrow like a snake's. He was dressed in a long white robe.

The boy made a hissing noise and raised his arms above his head. The robe fell away and everybody who was watching let out a loud gasp of surprise. His body was covered in scales!

From head to toe he sparkled, green and gold and yellow and blue. He was wearing a pair of shorts but nothing else. He turned around so we could see his back, and that was the same as the front, except a few shades darker.

When he faced us again, he lay down on his belly and slid off the stage, just like a snake. It was then that I remembered the snake-boy on the flyer and put two and two together.

Task 3: Imagine you were at the Cirque Du Freak with Darren and Steve. You were shocked when a live snake was released into the audience. Write a letter to Mr Tall complaining about the poor standards of health and safety at the show.

Try and use a range of sentence structures in your writing.

Sentence Type	Symbol	Sentence example
List, List and List	LIST, LIST and LIST	It is a mean, thoughtless and cruel thing to do.
4Ad sentences	A A + A A	The thoughtful, caring nurses helped the exhausted, suffering soldiers.
ing____, ____ed	ing____, ____ed	Feeling strongly about the issue, I decided to act.
If, if, if, then	If, if, if, then	If we don't act now, if this issue is left to get worse, if the numbers living in poverty increase, then I will hold you accountable.
Irony sentences	'Irony'	Our ' luxury ' hotel turned out to be a farm building.

Top tips for letter writing:

- Start your letter with 'Dear Mr Tall', and end your letter with 'Yours sincerely'.
- In your opening paragraph, outline the reason why you are writing to him.
- In your next few paragraphs, go into detail about the incidents you witnessed. You should use the example in the extract you've read, but you could also add other reasons. Try to link your paragraphs using connectives. For example, firstly, secondly, after that.
- In your final paragraph, explain what you want. Would you like compensation, or would you like a refund, or do you want a written apology?

Planning:

Introduction: Why are you writing to Mr Tall?

Paragraph 1: What were the details of the first incident you witnessed, and how were you affected?

Paragraph 2: What were the details of the second incident you witnessed, and how were you affected?

Conclusion: What do you want to happen now?

WOW Words: Fill this box with all the impressive vocabulary you are going to use in your letter. For example, instead of saying that the snake act was terrible, you could say it was atrocious or appalling.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving a margin on the left side. The paper is framed by a thin black border.

Read this extract from chapter 17 of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'. In this extract, Victor Frankenstein is having a conversation with the monster.

"I am alone, and miserable; man will not associate with me; but one as deformed and horrible as myself would not deny herself to me. My companion must be of the same species, and have the same defects. This being you must create."

The being finished speaking, and fixed his looks upon me in expectation of a reply. But I was bewildered, perplexed and unable to arrange my ideas sufficiently to understand the full extent of his proposition. He continued--

"You must create a female for me, with whom I can live in the interchange of those sympathies necessary for my being. This you alone can do; and I demand it of you as a right which you must not refuse to concede."

The latter part of his tale had kindled anew in me the anger that had died away while he narrated his peaceful life among the cottagers, and, as he said this, I could no longer suppress the rage that burned within me.

"I do refuse it," I replied; "and no torture shall ever extort a consent from me. You may render me the most miserable of men, but you shall never make me base in my own eyes. Shall I create another like yourself, whose joint wickedness might desolate the world! Begone! I have answered you; you may torture me, but I will never consent."

"You are in the wrong," replied the fiend; "and, instead of threatening, I am content to reason with you. I am malicious because I am miserable. Am I not shunned and hated by all mankind? You, my creator, would tear me to pieces, and triumph; remember that, and tell me why I should pity man more than he pities me? You would not call it murder if you could precipitate me into one of those ice-rifts, and destroy my frame, the work of your own hands. Shall I respect man when he contemns me? Let him live with me in the interchange of kindness; and, instead of injury, I would bestow every benefit upon him with tears of gratitude at his acceptance. But that cannot be; the human senses are insurmountable barriers to our union. Yet mine shall not be the submission of abject slavery. I will revenge my injuries: if I cannot inspire love, I will cause fear; and chiefly towards you my arch-enemy, because my creator, do I swear inextinguishable hatred. Have a care: I will work at your destruction, nor finish until I desolate your heart, so that you shall curse the hour of your birth."

Task 4: Can you answer the following questions?

1. Why is Frankenstein's monster feeling miserable?

2. Which of these words is NOT a synonym for confused? Circle your answer.

Perplexed

Bemused

Bewildered

Modest

3. What does Frankenstein's monster want Frankenstein to create for him?

4. Which of these words IS a synonym for 'fiend'? Circle your answer.

Villain

Comrade

Angel

Friend

5. Write the following phrases in your own words:

"I will never consent" _____

"inextinguishable hatred" _____

"have the same defects" _____

Extension Task:

Write a poem from the point of view of Frankenstein's monster.

The title of your poem is: 'They call me monster, but I just want to be loved'

Read this extract from chapter 12 of ‘Cirque Du Freak’ by Darren Shan. In the extract, Mr Crepsley, one of the acts at the Cirque Du Freak, is performing with his spider, Madam Octa.

“It’s not true that all tarantulas are poisonous,” Mr Crepsley said. He had a deep voice. I managed to tear my eyes away from Steve and trained them on the stage. “Most are as harmless as the spiders you find anywhere in the world. And those which *are* poisonous normally only have enough poison in them to kill very small creatures.

“But some are deadly!” he went on. “Some can kill a man with one bite. They are rare, and only found in extremely remote areas, but they do exist.

“I have one such spider,” he said and opened the door of the cage. For a few seconds nothing happened, but then the largest spider I had ever seen crawled out. It was green and purple and red, with long hairy legs and a big fat body. I wasn’t afraid of spiders, but this one looked terrifying.

The spider walked forward slowly. Then its legs bent and it lowered its body, as though waiting to fly.

“Madam Octa has been with me for several years,” Mr Crepsley said. “She lives far longer than ordinary spiders. The monk who sold her to me said some of her kind live to be twenty or thirty years old. She is an incredible creature, both poisonous and intelligent.” While he was speaking, one of the blue-hooded people led a goat onto the stage. It was making a frightened bleating noise and kept trying to run. The hooded person tied it to the table and left.

The spider began moving when it saw and heard the goat. It crept to the edge of the table, where it stopped, as if awaiting an order. Mr Crepsley produced a shiny tin whistle – he called it a flute – from his trouser pocket and blew a few short notes. Madam Octa immediately leaped through the air and landed on the goat’s neck.

The goat gave a leap when the spider landed, and began bleating loudly. Madam Octa took no notice, hung on and moved a few centimetres closer to the head. When she was ready, she bared her fangs and sunk them deep into the goat’s neck!

The goat froze and its eyes went wide. It stopped bleating and, a few seconds later, toppled over. I thought it was dead, but then realised it was still breathing.


“This flute is how I control Madam Octa,” Mr Crepsley said, and I looked away from the fallen goat. He waved the flute slowly above his head. “Though we have been together for a long time, she is not a pet, and would surely kill me if I ever lost it.

“The goat is paralysed,” he said. “I have trained Madam Octa not to kill outright with her first bite. The goat would die in the end, if we left it – there is no cure for Madam Octa’s bite – but we shall finish it quickly.” He blew on the flute and Madam Octa moved up the goat’s neck until she was standing on its ear. She bared her fangs again and bit. The goat shivered, then went totally still.

It was dead.

Task 5: Write a speech persuading Mr Crepsely to stop using Madam Octa in his Cirque Du Freak act because it's an act of animal cruelty.

Try and use a range of sentence structures in your writing.

Sentence Type	Symbol	Sentence example
What +	? +	What can we do about it? Let me tell you.
Double -ly	LY + LY	People forget easily and quickly .
Ad, same, ad	+ , = +	It is wrong, wrong because we can do something to stop it.
Description : Detail	DE : DE	Bullies are cowards: they are afraid of becoming the victim themselves.
Imagine		Imagine a time when people were not afraid, when life was much simpler, when everyone helped each other: maybe we can achieve that world today.

Writing to persuade: Remember A FOREST

Address the reader (you)

Facts-

Opinions

Rhetorical questions

Emotive language

Statistics

Triple (list of 3)

Planning:

Paragraph 1: How are you going to hook your reader? You could start with a rhetorical question or an imperative.



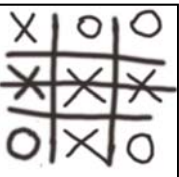
Paragraph 2: How are you going to back up your argument? You could use facts and opinions from experts.



Paragraph 3: How else can you back up your argument? You could recount the story about Madam Octa killing the goat to support your argument.



Paragraph 4: What is the other side of the argument? You could briefly explain what the other viewpoint is, but remember to say why it is wrong.



Paragraph 5: How are you going to convince your reader that you're right? You should use lots of emotive words to convince them.



A sheet of white paper with a black border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing, evenly spaced and extending across the page.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving a margin on the left side. There are 25 horizontal lines in total, starting from the top margin and ending at the bottom margin. The paper is otherwise empty of any text or markings.