

Day 1

★ Here we want as many different type of places as possible – the more the better. For example: wood, city, shed, street, station, maze, cellar ...



★ Top Tip: generic places are what we are looking for here, not the actual names of particular places: we want city not London, planet not Jupiter.



Sorting your ideas

One way to sort your places is to put them into categories. This often helps you to think of more ideas as one idea can lead to another and so on.

Water	Where people live	Buildings	Outer space
lake	town	shed	moon
river	house	supermarket	planet

★ Now over to you to make your lists of places. Can you get more than 50?

Day 2

Recap yesterday and have your places in front of you and your list of abstract nouns

Make a list of abstract nouns

Before we make our list for the game, you might need to brush up on the four types of nouns:

- **Concrete nouns:** the general names for people, places and things that you can see/touch/taste/smell etc. e.g. ball, table, grass, pony, child
- **Proper nouns:** special names starting with capital letters e.g. Sarah, Dr Foster, Spain
- **Collective nouns:** a word for a group of animals, people or things e.g. gang, swarm, crowd, pair
- **Abstract nouns:** something that exists but you cannot see/touch e.g. love, dream, fear, hope

For our game, we want lots and lots of abstract nouns. Here are some top tips for your list:

Happy feelings: hope, love, joy, friendship, happiness,

Sad feelings: regret, pain, doom, sadness, dread

Fantasy: curse, premonition, vision, dream, nightmare,

Attitude words ending in -tion/-sion: determination, ambition, trepidation, passion, confusion

Now over to you to make your list of abstract nouns. If you're stuck, magpie from the ones above or ask your family if they can think of any.

Now make as many combinations as you can!

- ★ Top Tip: You could choose ONE setting and then combine it with 5-10 abstract nouns and see which one surprises, entertains or interests you most.

Activity 3: Making your first combinations!

Now comes the fun part! Choose one word from each list and put them together to make an interesting combination. Here's how it works:

Places		Abstract Nouns	Combinations
church	+	love	The church of love
village	+	dreams	The village of dreams
station	+	pain	The station of pain
tunnel	+	hope	The tunnel of hope
river	+	anxiety	The river of anxiety

Each place can be paired up with any of the abstract nouns so the possibilities are endless! At this stage, try not to worry about whether they are 'good' or not just generate lots and lots of ideas so we have plenty to choose from later.

The school of doom
The school of laughter
The school of determination
The school of hope
The school of fun
The school of dreams
The school of pride
The school of friendship
The school of possibilities

Day 3

Try some alliteration

Let's make some more combinations but this time try to make them alliterative: this means both your place and your abstract noun need to start with the same sound:

The cave of curiosity
The temple of terror
The office of honesty

Can you create your own sentences using alliteration?

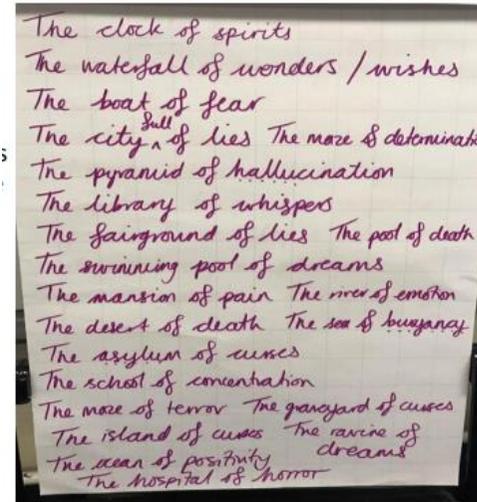
Using the same letters!

Now you have generated your list, you can start judging which ideas stand out. Reading your ideas out loud can help here to listen to the effect on the ear.

Which ones might surprise your reader? Which ones have you never

The motorway of mischief
A star of sorrow
The fairground of fear

heard before? Which ones immediately conjure up an image in your mind's eye?



Day 4

Read the poem and respond to the questions

The Cave of Curiosity

In the cave of curiosity, I created

an angry ant ambling along,

a terrified tarantula tickling a tornado

and a curious computer calling cautiously to the King.

In the cave of curiosity, I created

the sound of silence closing its lips,

a hummingbird's wings flickering,

as the sea silently scrapes the pebbles and ten tired lorries trundle by.

Below is a poem written by Pie Corbett using The City of Silence game called The Cave of Curiosity. It is a great example of a poem using a repetitive pattern; this time he starts each verse with the phrase: In the cave of curiosity. We are going look closely at this poem and write some responses.

★ Listen to the poem out loud a few times.

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/city/s-UmP7BEbB2cG>

Activity 9: Extending our ideas to write our own

*In the cave of curiosity, I created
the touch of smooth stones from the summer beach,
the stickiness of honey on a fingertip
and the heat from a teaspoon as it stirs my morning tea.*

*In the cave of curiosity, I created
the coldness of frost as it freckles the windowpane,
the sharpness of a saw as it crunches through wood
and the sadness of a tear as it trickles down a cheek.*

*In the cave of curiosity, I captured
the moon's cold gleam imprisoned in a box,
the joy of a merry-go-round as it spins like a feral ferris wheel
and the force of a rainbow as it dazzles the sky with a smile that stuns.*

Now let's look at the poem closely and try to respond to what we have read.

1) Which is your favourite word, line or verse? And why?

2) Which line would you like to change? What would you change it to?

3) Which part of the poem did you find scariest, saddest or most unusual?

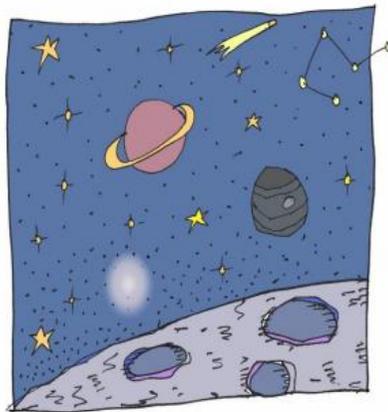
4) Find a part of the poem that uses alliteration really effectively.

5) Write Pie a short piece of feedback about his poem. It could follow this structure: 1. Give some praise 2. Offer some advice 3. Ask a question

Now let's be a bit more adventurous! Go back to your list of combinations and I am going to show you 3 different ways of extending them:

Activity 7: Creating a simple list poem

Let's have a go at writing a simple poem now from your favourite 10 or so ideas. They could be around a theme (e.g. space, happiness, darkness) or just the combinations that really caught your eye. Why not add some illustrations around your list poem ideas on the previous page?



Space

The planet of doom
The star of freedom
The black hole of light
The moon of isolation
The galaxy of hope
The universe of infinity
The sun of nightmares
The solar system of confusion



★ Now have a go writing your own simple list poem

Day 5

What it is like in your place?

Here we are telling the reader what might be in your place, what could happen if you went there or how it got its name!

Example: The castle of curses

The castle of curses is home to all evil in the kingdom.

The castle of curses looms over the city forever watching.

Once you enter the castle of curses, you can never escape.

a. Adding in more detail

Here we want to describe more about either the place or the abstract noun and we will do this by adding in **well-chosen adjectives**.

Example: The city of silence

The city of silence ... The **forgotten** city of silence

The city of silence ... The city of **frozen** silence

The city of silence ... The **forgotten** city of **frozen** silence

★ Top Tip: sometimes using too many adjectives can cause your writing to be overwritten: The huge, gigantic, massive, ugly city of silence.



So, add some effective adjectives and make sure that the adjective you choose actually adds something to the writing.
Pie tells us, "Every word should earn its place."

One of your ideas might already stand out to you as a great setting to bring to life by drawing/painting. Choose one of your ideas and sketch out what it might look like there. Here's Jon's idea for The forest of premonitions:

Performing one of your pieces of work

Poems and creative writing really come alive when they are read out loud and performed. You could just do this for yourself, or for your family or record it and send it to other people you know to cheer them up or inspire them to do their own. I am sure that your teachers would be over-the-moon to hear your performances!