

Creative writing activity – making lists

A list can be made about virtually anything, at any time of the year, for any theme the class is working on.

Writing lists will help the children to practice the imperative, use of adjectives and direct address.



How to use the lists

- Use the list before a story as a writing activity to generate ideas.
- After writing a list, invite the children to design a leaflet or poster and help them create an appropriate layout with suitable graphics.
- Re-write the list in the style of a poem. Encourage the use of alliteration.
- Give the whole class the same list to create. Afterwards, let them share their ideas and see how different or similar their lists are.
- Pin up a class list for a week near the door or notice board. Invite the children to add their ideas to it freely.

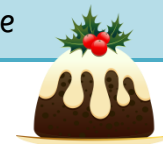
List ideas

Halloween theme



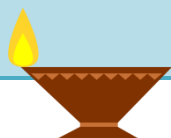
- 5 things you should do if you meet a vampire
- 5 great Halloween costumes
- 10 things found in a haunted house
- Things in a witch's cavern
- What to do if you see a ghost

Christmas theme



- 5 things that annoy Santa Claus
- What you'll find in an elf's satchel
- How to behave if you meet the Christmas fairy
- Under the Christmas tree
- In Santa's workshop

Diwali theme



- Ways to welcome Rama
- How to stay safe with fireworks
- 10 things I'd like to say to Lakshmi
- How to create a beautiful rangoli
- 5 things inside Lakshmi's handbag

Water project



- How to waste water
- Amazing things about water
- If we didn't have water in our taps...
- Water words
- Where we find water

Here is an example of a list poem by children and adults at *Paper Cat English (with permission)*. Each member of the class wrote a sentence about January. All the sentences were put into a box labelled January. The sentences were pulled out at random and then, in pairs or threes, the children re-ordered the poem. The class voted for the best one which you can read below.

January

My birthday is in January
It's cold and grey and boring after the Christmas excitement
Sales
Shopping and big discounts
I will make some resolutions
I have to go to the gym
I need to buy a washing machine
My birthday was on 2nd January
You eat a lot of sweets on the Epiphany
You take the decorations down
It's boring
It's my birthday
It's a long month
Nothing happens
I don't like January. I prefer the summer
A new year
It's a new start
I'm going to India
January is still winter.