

# Supporting Writing at Home



A Parents' Guide to Writing using VCOP

**Thank you for helping us to support your child!**

You can use

# V



## Violet Vocab

- Violet has the power to help people really see how things look.
- She holds the secret of how characters and places really feel.
- Although words for sights and sounds are her favourite weapons she knows the importance of taste, touch and smell too.
- Violet knows how to pick just the right nouns or verbs to give writing real power over a reader.
- She uses adjectives and adverbs to hypnotise people into really seeing and feeling a piece of writing.

Noun - A word that names a person, place or thing: The tired, scared **boy** trudged slowly through the thick **mud**.

Adjective - A word used to describe a person, place or thing: The **tired**, **scared** boy trudged slowly through the **thick** mud.

Verb - A word to describe action; what is happening in the sentence: The tired, scared boy **trudged** slowly through the thick mud.

Adverb - A word to describe how the action is taking place: The tired, scared boy trudged **slowly** through the thick mud.

# C



## Captain Connective

- The Captain holds the team together **and** without him writing can be repetitive and boring, holding no power over the reader at all.
- His greatest power is to link ideas together **providing** a net to catch any reader.
- He gives the opportunity to add more detail to a sentence, **but** doesn't always appear in the middle of sentences!

# O



## Incredible Opener

- The Incredible Opener is a master of disguise.
- **Sometimes**, he jumps up and tells the reader when something is happening. **Suddenly**, he is an adverb. **Although**, can be a link between ideas just like Captain Connective. **Alternatively**, he can express an opposite idea. **On dark, windy nights, when even the wolves stay in their dens**, he can be a whole phrase!
- He may seem like a bit of a Joker, but don't be fooled, he helps add structure. It's his job to hook the reader in and keep him reading.

# P



## Doctor Punctuation

- The Doctors basic weapon is the power to stop and start a sentence. If capital letters and full stops are missing, or in the wrong place, writing is weak. It will not have the power to grab a reader!
- His control over the reader is reinforced by the use of commas to separate ideas. They work well when combined with connectives and openers.
- He reveals what characters actually say with speech marks.
- Does he ask questions? Of course, that's a great weapon for hooking a reader.

**Can you improve your writing to help the incredible VCOP super heroes save the world from a fate worse than dullness?**

*Encourage your child to improve the sentences that they write, using VCOP. For example,*

**The cat went along the wall.**

We can improve this sentence using:

Violet Vocabulary: The **fluffy ginger** cat **prowled** along the **red brick** wall.

Captain Connective: The fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall **because he was spying on a juicy bird.**

Incredible Opener: **Whilst licking his lips**, the fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a juicy bird.

Dr Punctuation: Whilst licking his lips, the fluffy ginger cat (**who had sharp teeth**) prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a bird!

## Helping your child with V.C.O.P at home.

### V-Violet Vocabulary (Wow words!)

- Talk about and write down interesting (Wow) words in the stories you are reading at home.
- Try using the words you have found in a sentence.
- Have a mini-quiz: 'How many words can you think of instead of 'said'?' or 'went', 'nice', 'good'. Put each one in a sentence.
- Give your child a Wow word to put into a sentence. How many different sentences can they make?
- Give your child two different words and ask them to make different sentences from them. E.g.: 'magical' and 'boy'.
- Remind them that they should use the other heroes when writing these sentences!

### C-Captain Connective

Connectives are used to join sentences together. The simplest connective to use is 'and', as in: Bill went to the shops **and** he bought an ice-cream.

- Try to search for connectives in the stories you read at home. Use them in a different sentence.
- Try rearranging sentences with the connectives at the start. E.g. The little boy shivered **despite** it being warm in the cave. - **Despite** it being warm in the cave the little boy shivered.
- Give your child a connective and ask them to use it in a sentence.

### O- The Incredible Opener

An opener is the first word used in a sentence. When children start on their writing journey most sentences initially begin with 'I'. To develop this try:

- Searching for openers in the stories you read at home and use them to start your own sentences.
- Give your child an opener and ask them to complete the sentence.

### P- Dr. Punctuation

- Look at different types of punctuation in your reading at home.
- Ask your child to give examples of when they would use a ? or ! or . or , - use the punctuation pyramid.
- Use different types of punctuation in different sentences.

# Different ways to start a sentence - The Incredible Opener!



## *Ways to Start*

"When" starter  
"How" starter  
"Where" starter  
Name starter  
Simile  
Adjective starter  
"-ed" clause  
"-ing" clause

## *Example*

Last night...  
Carefully, he crept ....  
Across the road...  
Bill wandered ...  
Like an eel ....  
Tall trees towered overhead ....  
Excited, Joanna ran ....  
Running quickly, Tim felt ....

## **Time Connectives**

Before	After	Later	After a while
Soon	Then	Afterwards	At dawn
Once	Suddenly	Eventually	Until
Before	Finally	Following	Firstly
When	Lastly	In the end	Soon
Later	After tea	Next	Now
Meanwhile	While	Tomorrow	One day
Previously	Since	At that moment	
At the beginning			

## Alternatives to went

### **moving slowly**

shuffled      toddled      crept

meandered      plodded      trudged      wandered

### **moving unsteadily.**

lumbered      shuffled      toddled      doddered

waddled      plodded      limped      wobbled

lurched

### **Moving loudly or quickly**

stomped      marched      strolled      traipsed

strutted      hiked      roamed      paced

stepped      pounded

### **Moving quietly**

meandered      prowled      sneaked      tiptoed

crept      pattered