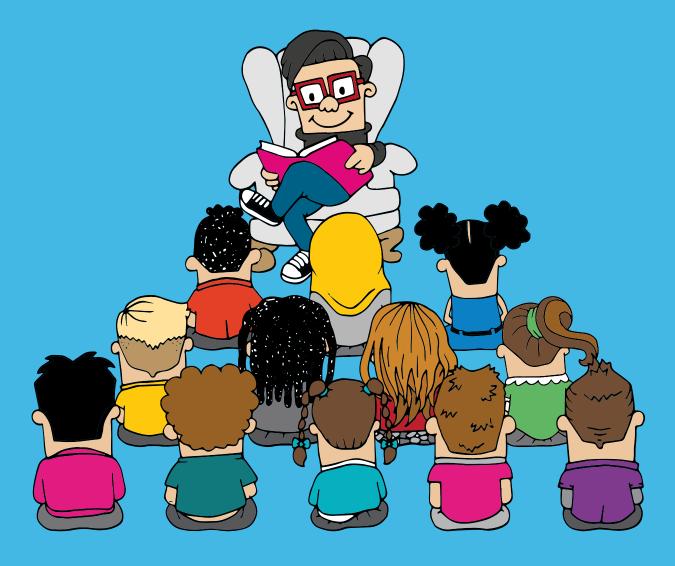
# The Write Stuff Unit Plan Transforming the Teaching of Writing



Based on the book: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

**Text type: Non-Fiction** 

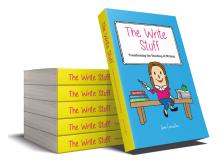
Biography



# Instructions

To achieve maximum impact in the classroom, we recommend purchasing the following books to support the teaching of this unit:

- The Write Stuff Transforming the Teaching of Writing by Jane Considine, which fully explains her progress-boosting teaching methods <u>www.thetrainingspace.co.uk</u>
  - Bold Women in Black Hisory by Vashti Harrison, <a href="https://amzn.to/2XzY9FF">https://amzn.to/2XzY9FF</a>



This plan covers 13 teaching days/sessions, split into:

- Find the Shape Days (2)
  Experience Days (5)
- Sentence Stacking Days (6)

We recommend these structured days are followed by an independent pupil writing task.

The following resources will also support the teaching of this unit:

- The Writing Rainbow available from our website HERE
- The Writing Rainbow symbols available from our website HERE

We love to hear your success stories and see your pupils work examples. Please get in touch by:

email: info@thetrainingspace.co.uk

Facebook: janeconsidineeducation

Twitter: @janeconsidine

Watch training sessions on YouTube to understand how this unit of work supports teaching and learning.

YouTube: thetrainingspace www.thetrainingspace.co.uk





# **Overview of Unit**

Please note that non-fiction units are built from three modes of teaching.



#### Find the Shape

One or two English lessons right at the beginning of a unit are deployed to read a model nonfiction example. Pupils should then be helped to understand it as a visual, jigsaw style shape. This is very directed teaching.



#### Sentence Stacking

Lessons concentrate on the teaching of writing with a sharp focus on the craft and construction of sentences. Each Sentence Stacking lesson is organised into three learning chunks. Sentences created by pupils should be celebrated and examples used to form a large class Sentence Stack. This Sentence Stack should build over the duration of the unit to display the whole piece of text. See appendix for example of complete teacher model for this unit.



Immersive teaching to stimulate ideas. Experience lessons can take many forms - visits out, visitors in or drama conventions deployed to strengthen context and build imagination. The number of experiences included in a unit is at a teachers' discretion. Experience lessons can be added or removed from a teaching sequence depending on the needs of pupils and knowledge of their previous experiences.





# **A Non-Fiction Journey**

#### **Jigsaw Shapes**

Every non-fiction unit requires the teacher to establish the exact shape that needs building. The shape could come from a non-fiction text, film clip or book. We recommend that non-fiction shapes ideally have nine jigsaw style components. These jigsaw pieces need to be shared with pupils from the outset so that they have a clear sense of all the parts of the writing that constitute the non-fiction text type.

#### Jigsaw Shapes make Sentence Stacking Lessons

There is an example shape for this non-fiction text type included in this unit. As you progress through the unit you will be able to clearly see which jigsaw pieces are being taught/modelled in each Sentence Stacking lesson.

#### **Non-Fiction Map**

A non-fiction journey map can also be created as you move through the unit. There is an example included for this non-fiction text type. Individual jigsaw pieces can be plotted on the non-fiction map as pieces are added, use the positive/negative axis to discuss this part of the text and whether it has a positive or negative impact on the reader. Annotations can also be added.

#### Independent Writing

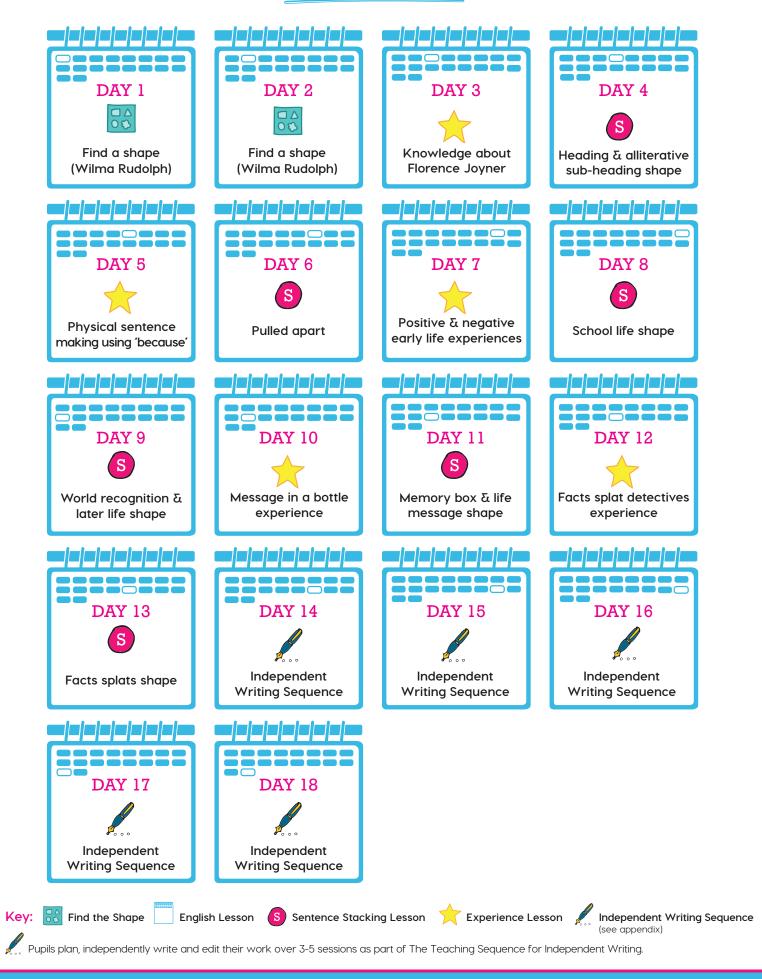


It is important to map the jigsaw pieces and analyse the highs and lows of the non-fiction text built across a unit, as this will generate the task for independent writing at the end. Using the 'Independent Writing Teaching Sequence' included, teachers move through the steps to guide children from the highly modelled Sentence Stack to writing independently. When writing non-fiction, the pupils independent task should be to craft their own text which mirrors the highs and lows mapped. It is within the teacher's discretion to choose a topic for pupils to build their own ideas e.g. a previous history topic for a non-chronological report. This gives pupils real freedom to develop their content around a theme independently.





# **Teaching Sequence**





lased on the book Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

A Write Stuff Unit Plan

The Training Space

# Find the Shape

# A Sporting Biography

Wilma Rudolph 1940-1994

Resilient, Rapid Runner

Can you imagine being paralysed then going on to win an Olympic medal?

Wilma is one of America's most famous sprinters. When she was growing up she contracted polio and had to wear a metal leg brace when she was four because the disease paralysed her left leg. Once she started physical therapy she was walking without a brace by the age of twelve and was as free as a bird soaring across the sky. In school, Wilma was teased for being different, this made her unhappy. By the age of thirteen, she was running faster than all of the boys and girls in her class, this made her heart fly. During school, Wilma was starting to get noticed for her speed and strength. As Wilma grew up, she began to break into the Olympic scene and won her first medal in 1956 in Melbourne, Australia. Wilma, most noticeably, went on to win three golds in 1960 in Rome. Wilma's legacy that she left behind her for other children was The Wilma Rudolph Foundation to support young athletes during their careers. Her message we can feel through how she lived her life is, everyone is equal and should have equal access to the same opportunities.

Wilma Rudolph campaigned for equality on civil rights.

Wilma was one brave voice that showed others you can make a difference if you speak up.

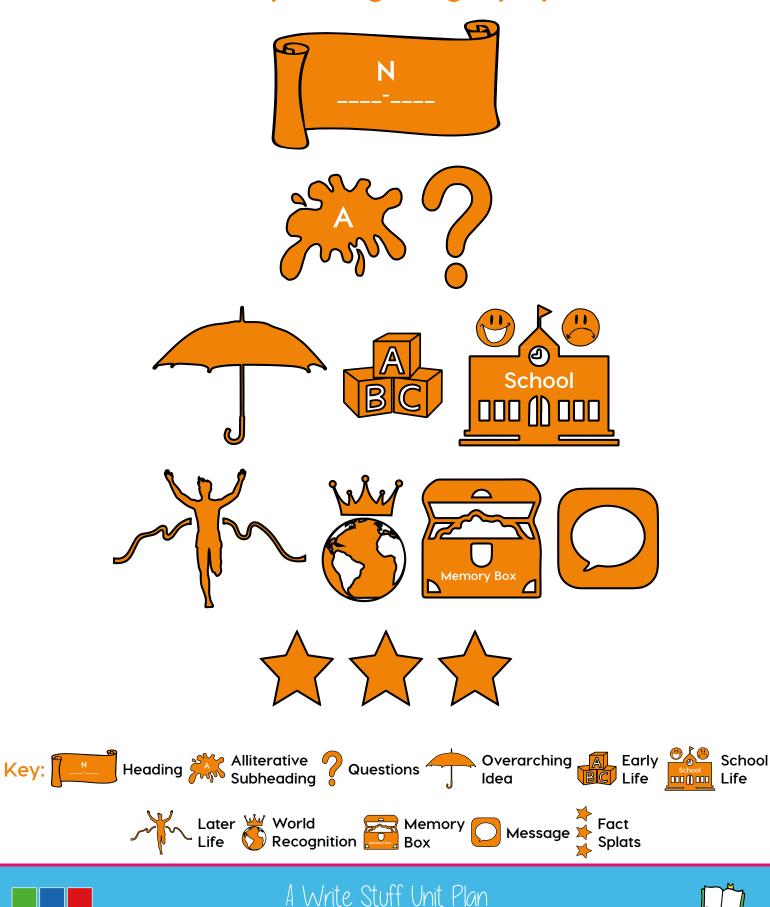
Wilma fought against segregation in her home of Clarksville, Tennessee.





# **Non-Fiction Shape**

# A Sporting Biography



The Training Space

Based on the book Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

# Find the Shape

### A Sporting Biography



Resilient, Rapid Runner



Can you imagine being paralysed then going on to win an Olympic medal?

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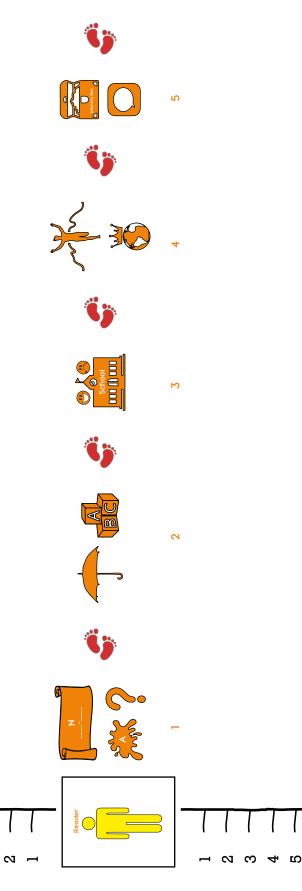
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# Non-Fiction Map: A Sporting Biography



Shape drawn down from adapted information about Wilma Rudolph.  $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ 

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To understand how to use this map, please read the page titled 'Non-Fiction Journey'.



A Write Stuff Unit Plan



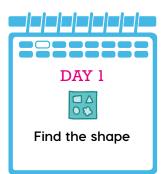
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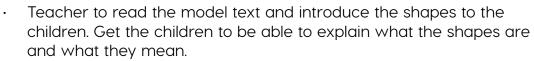
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#### Find the Shape (1)

#### Learning Objective:

To introduce the biography shape.



- Pupils to re-read the text and place it on a non-fiction map. Discuss how the shapes will support them to build their own.
- Explore the knowledge required to populate these 'meaning making' shapes to another sporting hero/heronine. Key question, 'What research is required to ensure all jigsaw shapes can be written?'







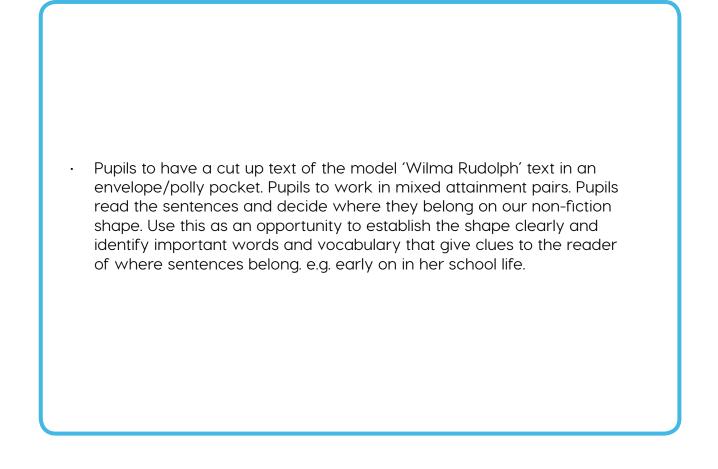


#### Find the Shape (2)

#### Learning Objective:

To recap and re-familiarise with the sporting biography shape.

To pair sentences with the associated shapes to construct a complete biography.











#### Experience Day (1)

To meet Florence Joyner and understand how she made history.

 Watch a selection of YouTube clips and notice unique things about her. Talk in pairs about three things you remember following the short films. Whilst watching, use the FANTASTIC symbols to collect ideas through the 9 ideas of writing, in particular sight, action, inner thought and feeling.

 $\bigcirc$ 

Inspired, motivated, joyous, positive.



1980's/1990's fashion . Bright coloured lycra. Adapted costumes, coordinated make-up to outfit, nails.



Amazing, admirable, impressive.



Energetic, powerful, successful,

• Go onto the playground and mark out 100m. Time boys and girls running this distance and collect findings. Does anybody beat Florence Joyner's record of 10.49 seconds?



Experience sessions should be rinsed for vocabulary using The FANTASTICs.











\*HA = Higher Attainers



The Training Space

#### A Write Stuff Unit Plan

Learning chunk 2

M



#### Sentence Stacking Lesson 1

#### Learning Objective:



#### **Experience** Day (2)

#### Learning Objective:

To pair sentence starters and sentence finishers together using the word 'because'.

- Provide a range of sentence strips for pupils that are the sentence starters and finishers. These are jumbled up. Read and share these and try and sort into two groups of starters or finishers. Introduce the wonderful word 'because' and how this can join two ideas together.
- · Jumbled up clauses: ...she adored fashion and beauty.
- ...she had funky 1990's hair styles.
- ...she trained hard every day.
- ...she managed to catch a running jack rabbit.
- ...she cared about young girls in sport.
- ...sharing messages with young people was important.
- her outfits were colourfully flashy and she had 6 inch, polished nails.
- her hair was eye catching a dramatic.
- $\cdot\,$  she won many silver and gold medals and secured a world record.
- $\cdot$  she knew she was talented at a very young age.
- · she established a youth foundation.
- · she wrote many children's books.



Experience sessions should be rinsed for vocabulary using The FANTASTICs.









#### **Sentence Stacking Lesson 2**

#### Learning Objective:

To write effective sentences for our sporting biography.

U

Fact

#### Steps to Success:



'Because' sentence 😑

Simile 😑

#### **Model**

Teacher model: Florence is one of

the fastest women of all time.

#### Enable

Pupils sort facts into fake and real

and choose their favourite to write

their overarching idea.

HA: Deepen the moment.

<u>)</u>jtí

#### Initiate

Shapes

Fact

#### Fact

DAY<sub>6</sub>

S

Overarching idea and early life shape

#### 'Because sentence'

#### 'Because' sentence

Teacher model: When she was growing up she loved fashion and make-up because her mother was a model and her grandmother was a beautician.

#### 'Because' sentence

Pupils to build their own sentence with a new ending after the word 'because'. HA: Deepen the moment.

#### Simile

Show a photographic powerpoint of quick things in nature and the world. Gather a bank of car, train, plane, shooting star, a bank of appropriate verbs. e.g. zooming, racing, pelting, hurtling, flying, swooping, darting,

#### Simile

Teacher model: When visiting her father in the desert she caught a Jack rabbit as quick as a lightning bolt flashing across the sky.

Simile

Pupils to write their own speed simile using a powerful 'ing' verb and adding extra detail to heighten the pace.

HA: Deepen the moment.

\*HA = Higher Attainers



Learning chunk





#### **Experience** Day (3)

#### Learning Objective:

To recognise and discuss positive and negative emotions in school.

- To have a familiar school adult to share positive and negative experiences from their school days. (Prompts regarding positive and negative experiences.)
- Share evocative photographs of bullying at school. Share common rewards known to children in school (pow, rainbow challenge, super golden time etc.) and children to move to the smiley face or sad face side of the room. To feedback emotions of how they feel.
- Children to draw a picture of a smiley face and a sad face experience at school and post this in the class. Smiley face box or sad face box.
- Choose examples from the box for children to talk about their own experiences. \*star\* on the page if children would be happy to share with the rest of the class.



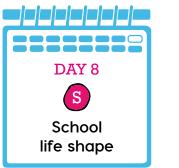
Experience sessions should be rinsed for vocabulary using The FANTASTICs.











Initiate

to her. e.g. bullied for her dreams

make it, you're not from a good

**Negative feeling** 



Shape

#### **Sentence Stacking Lesson 3**

#### Learning Objective:

To write effective sentences for our sporting biography.

#### **Steps to Success:**





Noticing ᅇ

#### Model

#### Negative feeling

Teacher model: In school Florence was mocked for her big dreams, this made Florence sad.

#### Enable

#### Negative feeling

Pupils to write down the negative comments she received from classmates. HA: Deepen the moment

#### Positive feeling

heartbroken. etc.

in groups. e.g. "she was already winning atł

#### **Positive feeling**

Teacher model: By the age of seven, she was already winning many athletic events, this made Florence happy.

#### **Positive feeling**

Pupils to input their own sentence ending. HA: Deepen the moment

#### Noticing

Gather a bank of words for unique, crazy socks, crazy hair, crazy nails on the whiteboard

#### Noticing

00

Teacher model: During school Florence was noticed for her unusual hair styles.

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#### Noticing

Pupils to input what they think Florence was noticed for during school and describe this with their own word for 'unique'. HA: Deepen the moment.

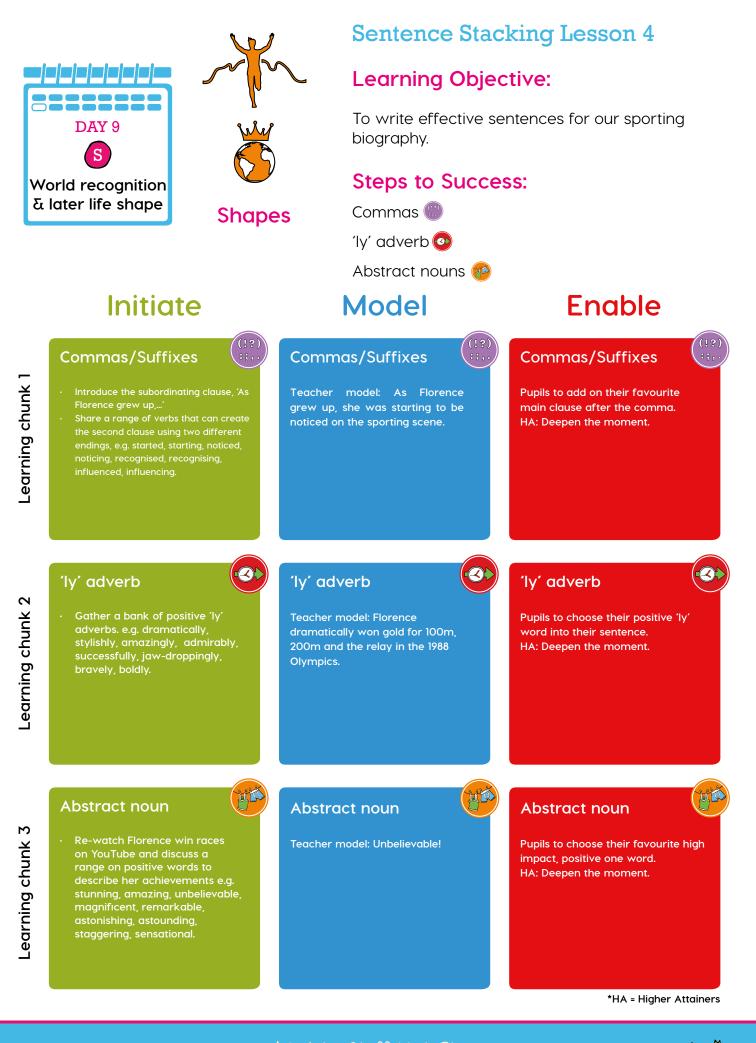
\*HA = Higher Attainers



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-earning chunk 3





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#### Experience Day (3)

#### Learning Objective:

To explore with children what we have learn from them.

- Start the lesson playing 'Dreams can come true' by Gabrielle. Listen to the lyrics.
- Remind ourselves through paired talk of our previous lesson and Florence's personal dreams. Talk with your friend about your dreams and what you want to be when you grow up. Talk about aspirations and thinking big. Teacher hands out in envelopes individual and personal messages to each child about what they have personally learned from that child being in their class. Make a heading : Message to each child. e.g. I have learnt from you how to be really brave. I have learnt from you how you cry quietly when your really sad. I have learnt from you how you turn your anger into something strong. Share a range of positive personality words. e.g. Kind, caring, loving, considerate, good friend, helpful, thoughtful, empathetic, hard working, happy, jokey, strong minded, determined, resilient, chatty, crazy, optimistic, honest, patient, giving.
- Provide children with big paper and a sentence frame- "I would like to be remembered for \_\_\_\_\_\_and\_\_\_\_\_."



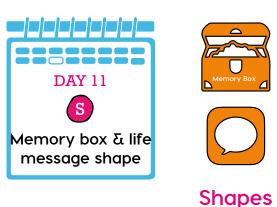
Experience sessions should be rinsed for vocabulary using The FANTASTICs.







A Write Stuff Unit Plan lased on the book Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison



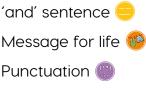
Initiate

#### **Sentence Stacking Lesson 5**

#### Learning Objective:

To write effective sentences for our sporting biography.

#### Steps to Success:



#### Model

#### Enable

#### 'and' sentence

record breaking speed, her medal winning achievements, her time fashion. e.g. Her fashion sense, her colourful attire, her dramatic

#### 'and' sentence

Provided sentence: Florence's legacy that she left behind for other children to access and develop their athletic talents was a youth foundation.

Teacher model: She would have liked to be remembered for her speed and fashion sense.

#### 'and' sentence

Pupils to use an 'and' to showcase Florence's talent and fashion. HA: Deepen the moment.

#### Message for life

Set up a zone of relevant discussion in the class. This is like a target 'to overcome adversity and always give up if it gets a bit tricky."

#### Message for life

Teacher model: Her message we can feel through how she lived her life is, do not be afraid to be different.

#### Message for life

U.

Pupils to write a message that Florence that life gives us today HA: Deepen the moment.

#### List of three with commas

#### Remind ourselves of our positive bottle experience day. Choose Florence.

#### List of three with commas

**Teacher model: Florence** demonstrates for others, grit, determination and strength.

List of three with commas

Include three positive adjectives to describe Florence. HA: Deepen the moment.

\*HA = Higher Attainers



Learning chunk 1

Learning chunk 3

A Write Stuff Unit Plan



#### Experience Day (4)

#### Learning Objective:

To find out unusual and interesting facts about our sporting heroine.

In pairs use the internet to research more unusual facts abour
 Florence Joyner. Watch video clips of herduring the height of her
 success and scour films, articles and websites to glean more intriguing
 'bite-sized' aspects that can feature as final snippets in the biography.
 Group them on a gob-smacking scale from 0 to 10. 0 meaning: not
 that fascinating. 10 meaning: wow! That's mind blowing!!! Put these
 facts into a rank order from the class contributions.



Experience sessions should be rinsed for vocabulary using The FANTASTICs.

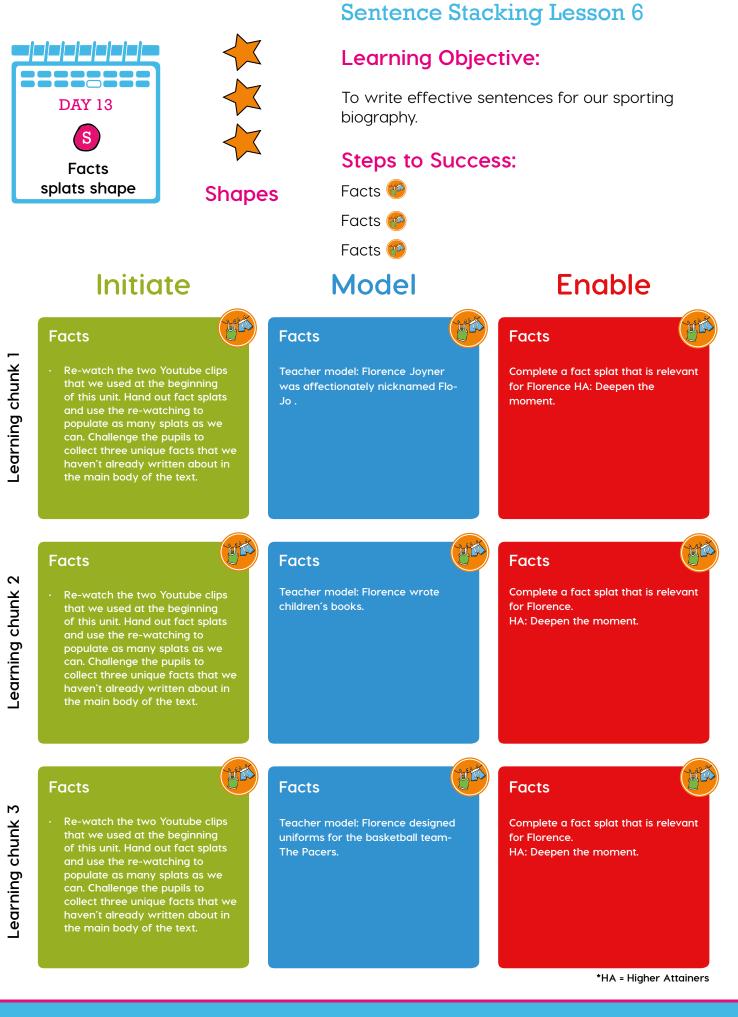






Based on the book Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

A Write Stuff Unit Plan









Please find enclosed :



Teacher Model



Guidance on a Teaching Sequence for Independent Writing.



Guidance on success criteria.



A blank narrative journey map or a blank non-fiction journey map.

Pupil pathway from planning to independent writing.



Guidance on editing.



Any other related materials to the teaching of this unit.









Florence Joyner 1959-1998

Spectacular, Special Sprinter

Can you imagine winning an Olympic medal for running 100m in under 11 seconds?

Florence is the fastest women of all time. When she was growing up she loved fashion and make-up because her mother was a model and her grandmother was a beautician. When visiting her father in the desert, she caught a jack rabbit as quick as a lightning bolt flashing across the sky. In school, Florence was mocked for her big dreams, this made her sad. By the age of seven, she was already winning many athletic events, this made Florence happy. During school, Florence was noticed for her unusual hair styles. As Florence grew up, she was starting to be noticed on the sporting scene. Florence dramatically won gold for her 100m, 200m and the relay in the 1988 Olympics. Florence's legacy that she left behind for other children to access and develop their athletic talents was a youth foundation. Her message we can feel through how she lived her life is, do not be afraid to be different.

Florence Joyner was affectionately nicknamed Flo-Jo.

Florence wrote children's books.

Florence designed uniforms for the basketball team- The Pacers.





# **Teaching Sequence for Independent Writing**

(Reference to STA: 2018 Teacher Assessment Guidance KS2)





A Write Stuff Unit Plan



# Success Criteria

Pupils should be provided with success criteria prior to independent writing. Success criteria should be chosen from the teaching points covered in a unit and could be identified together by looking at your class Sentence Stack.

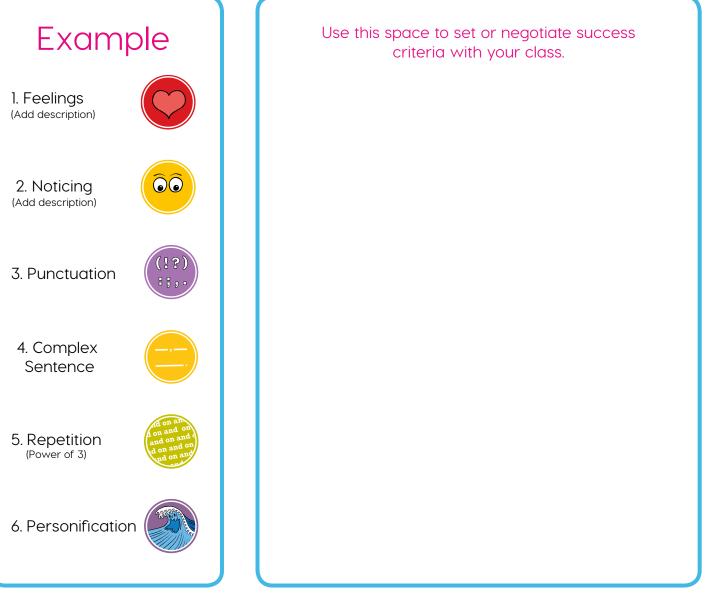
Success criteria should include a mix from the 'Three Zones of Writing'.







Example



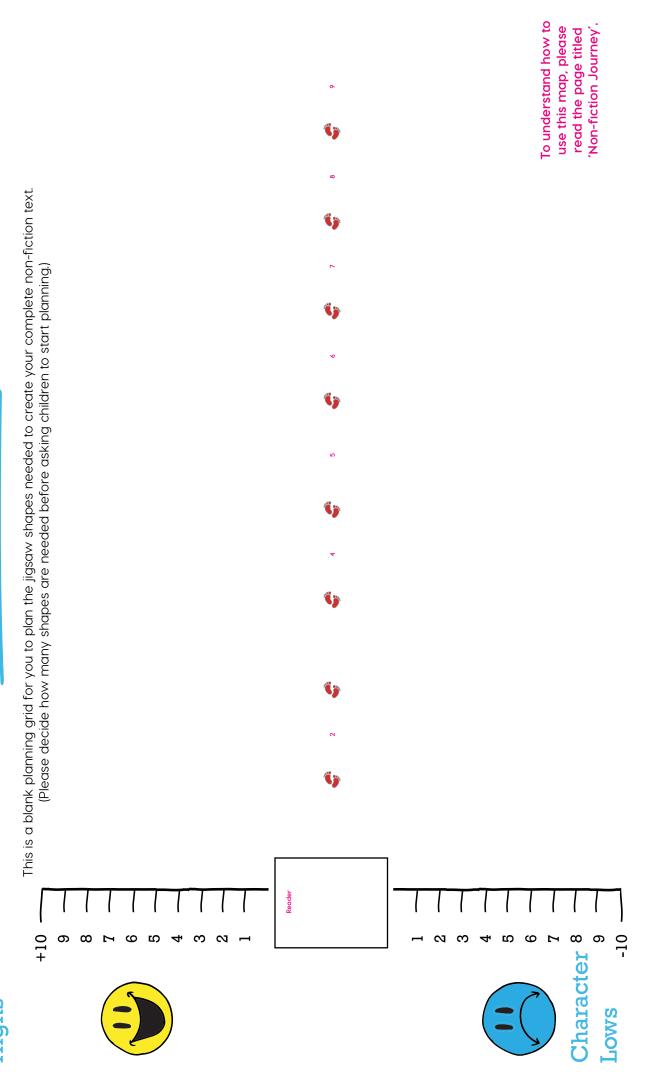
Please ensure that success criteria does not include examples. Please also ensure that there is no modelling or over scaffolding during the Independent Writing Teacher Sequence.





# Character Highs

# **Non-Fiction Map**



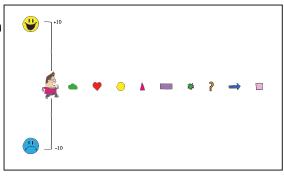
A Write Stuff Unit Plan



## Pupil Pathway... from planning to independent writing

#### Step 1: Jigsaw Pieces

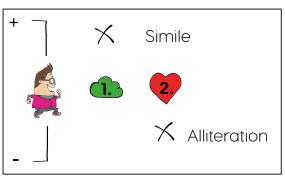
Pupils use a blank non-fiction map to plan their jigsaw pieces.



#### Step 2: Success criteria plotting

Position success criteria with negative / positive intent on the map.

- Positive simile
- Negative alliteration



#### Step 3: Planning sentences to deliver success criteria

Sentences can be added to the narrative map e.g.

#### Positive simile

Once the chase is on, the cheetah is as fast as a speeding train.

#### Steps 4 and 5: Independent writing.

Children should spend time writing in silence. This could be chunked into smaller blocks of time.





A Write Stuff Unit Plan

# **Editing Independent Writing**

Once the independent writing process is over, it is important pupils are given space and time to edit their work. Pupils need to be aware that there are different ways they can improve their writing.

#### El Edit: The Revise

Edit Type 1: These are often "little" adjustments or changes and tend to fall into one of these categories.

Spelling Missed or additional words Punctuation

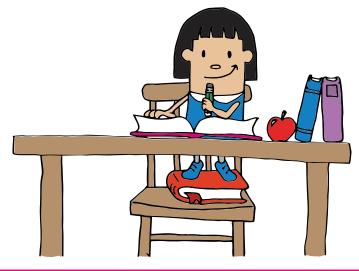
#### E2 Edit: The Rewrite

Edit Type 2: This is crucial and particularly for primary age pupils' thinking needs to be attached to sentence rewrites. A rewrite would be appropriate if a sentence doesn't make sense, could be restructured or generally improved.

#### E3 Edit: The Reimagine

Edit Type 3: This is when a writer wants to add more sentences to develop an idea further. Pupils are often resistant about adding more as it presents the problem of where to fit additional sentences. This is an ideal opportunity to train pupils to use 'editing flaps'.

Editing flaps are extra pieces of paper that stick onto their writing and show the additional sentences added into their work.







# The Writing Rainbow

#### A visual display of 'The Three Zones of Writing'

The Writing Rainbow offers a complete view of 'The Write Stuff' methods and systems. This is an excellent tool for teachers and pupils that have adopted the approaches found in Jane Considine's book 'The Write Stuff'.

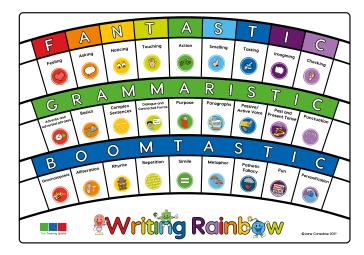
The poster is perfect for working walls; to add pupil and author examples of sentence types and structures, e.g. a complex/multi-clause sentence, a simile sentence. The poster is organised into three tiers to match the 'Three Zones of Writing'; the FANTASTICs, the Grammaristics and the Boomtastics.

The Writing Rainbow provides guidance for pupils writing at greater depth. Pupils familiar with this poster use it as a visual reminder of the wealth of ways they can showcase flair and select a focus for Deepen the Moment.

The poster is also a bright and colourful reminder that can be referred to during demonstration writing.

#### Digital and print versions are available to buy from our online shop





Print version www.thetrainingspace.co.uk/product/the-writing-rainbow-poster/

#### **Digital download**

www.thetrainingspace.co.uk/product/writing-rainbow-poster-electronic-version-forwhiteboard-use/







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