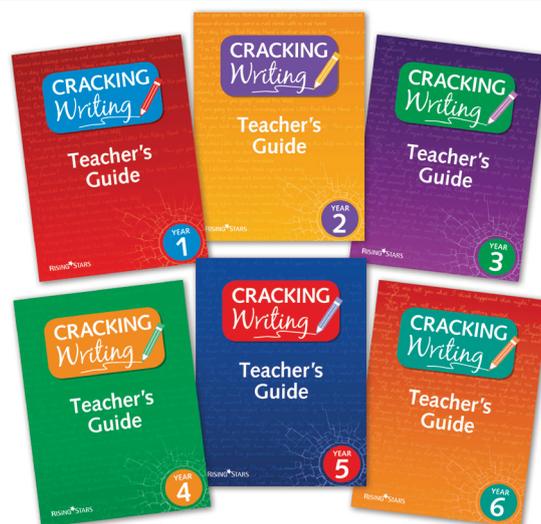


LITERACY

Cracking Writing

An easy-to-use and supple writing programme designed to improve writing standards across the school



AT A GLANCE

- Embeds grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Boosts creativity, improves vocabulary and fine-tunes proofreading
- Supports assessment using annotated model extracts
- Includes moderation guidance and progression grids to track and monitor attainment

REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL



Cracking Writing sounds like it might have been engineered and written by cheese-loving inventor Wallace with the help of his faithful Dostoyevsky-reading best friend Gromit. Well, if the bounce has gone from your bungee and you are looking to seriously beef up children's writing, then Cracking Writing could be just the ticket for you.

This is a comprehensive step-by-step writing system with a solid structure, impressively creative content and support more fortifying than a Lancashire hot pot. The programme is made up of individual year group teacher guides, each furnished with nine units of work that include model extracts for children to read and analyse, focused GPS activities, vocabulary and proofreading sessions, guidance on moderation and yearly progression grids. There are four fiction, four non-fiction and one poetry unit.

The units start with a model excerpt to read, analyse and dissect using a range of talking points to encourage discussion and debate among your students. A reading comprehension follows each text and come with clear and copious teaching notes, providing more than enough ideas and activities to sink a battleship.

If you are looking for ultimate structure and hand-holding then Cracking Writing suggests following a process of six stages and these are clearly explained. If, on the other hand, you want to go your own way, then you can easily use the material without sticking to a fixed plan. What you could do is cherry pick what works for you and plunder the rich and active learning suggestions. It can be used in any order and offers fantastic flexibility.

Cracking Writing also offers exciting activities to help children plan their work and frameworks to facilitate effective writing. There are plenty of ideas to help children review, edit and tweak their work in pairs, groups or as a class.

Cracking Writing might not come with levers, mallets and special chutes, but it does have all the invention and charm of Wallace's BunVac 60000 or Knit-O-Matic. It will also make writing easier and more creative for children and help them become musicians of the English language.

There is more to be had online too, with additional content galore on the Rising Stars website, including model texts highlighted with key grammatical constructions and editable success criteria. In conclusion, Cracking Writing is a real treat.

teach
PRIMARY

VERDICT

- ✓ A smorgasbord of flexible activities that can be used independently or together
- ✓ Supports writing skills and strategies for a range of purposes
- ✓ Detailed help with a bumper collection of activities and guidance
- ✓ Perfect for helping children crack their composition and writing skills
- ✓ Ensures meaningful and effective teacher assessment

UPGRADE IF...

You are looking to seriously ramp up children's technical skills, develop thoughtful responses and nurture outstanding creative writers.