

BIG Writing

A Ros Wilson Strategy



The Big Writing Philosophy



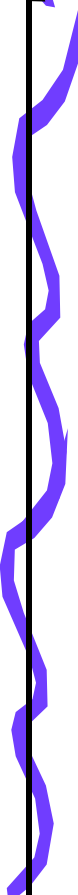
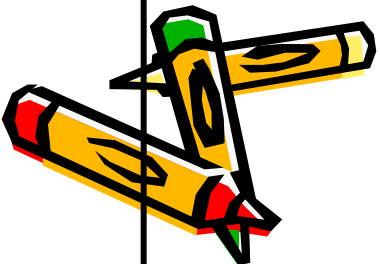
- Big Writing is the development of the 'writing voice' through fast, fun, lively and predominantly oral activities
- Pupils talk the 'writing voice' in a dedicated 'Big Writing' session & at other points in a week
- Based on the premise,
IF A CHILD CAN SAY IT, A CHILD CAN
WRITE IT



The Four Generic Targets



VCOP	Summary
V ocabulary	The range of ambitious vocabulary a pupil knows; WOW words.
C onnectives	The range of ways pupils have of joining ideas, phrases & sentences
O peners	The strategies pupils have for opening sentences; especially the 3 key openers: connectives, 'ly' words & 'ing' words
P unctuation	The range of punctuation a pupil can use & the accuracy with which they use it.



Level 1	.
Level 2	. ?
Level 3	. ? , !
Level 4	. ? , ! ... ’ “”
Level 5	. ? , ... - ! ’ “” : ; ()

The Punctuation Pyramid



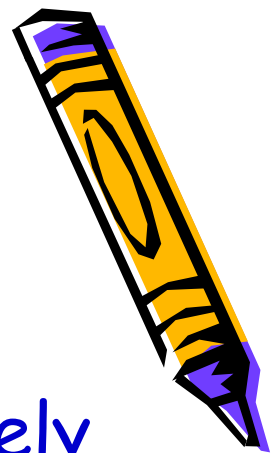
BIG WRITING - The Method



- One & half hours per week,
- plus daily stocking fillers
- Time comes from one literacy hour, plus extra half hour devoted to extended writing at some other point.



Method continued



- Focus & text type will have been introduced that week
- First 45 mins = 35 mins of fast, fun, lively oracy based activities linked to what's expected in their writing.
- Followed by 10 mins of planning time
- Planning time used to refocus the pupils' thoughts on the stimulus & text type for writing
- Second 45 mins is for writing



Example ACTIVITY

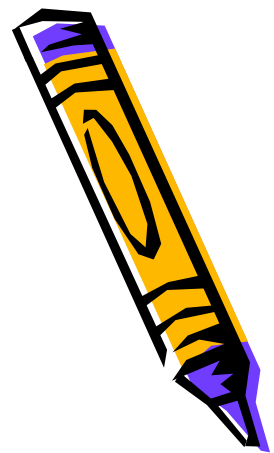
Uplevel this sentence.

The boy ran.

In pairs, discuss why I like this sentence:

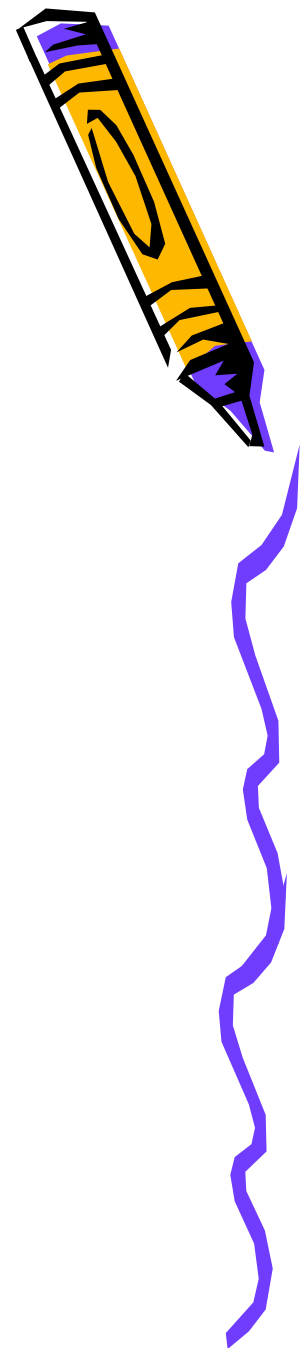
The light dimmed. I took a glance at the beast, whilst I still had time.

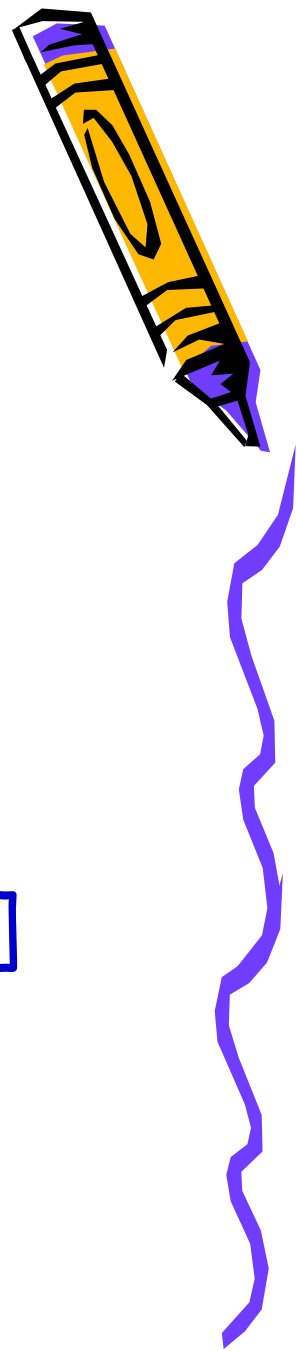
Identify the parts which have been uplevelled.



BIG WRITING - Resources

- Special Pens
- Special Paper
- Calming music
- Big Writing Timer
- Two/Three 'goals'





BIG WRITING - Teacher's Role

- To maintain the silence
- To provide 10min brain breaks
- To prompt pupils to build in VCOP

[These are known as time prompts]





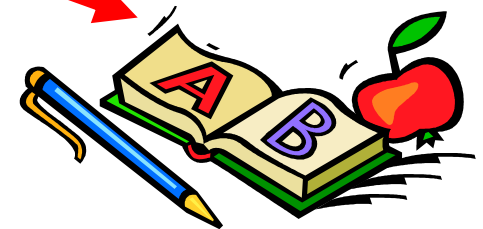
40 mins
Check your
targets!



30 mins
Check your openers
and connectives.

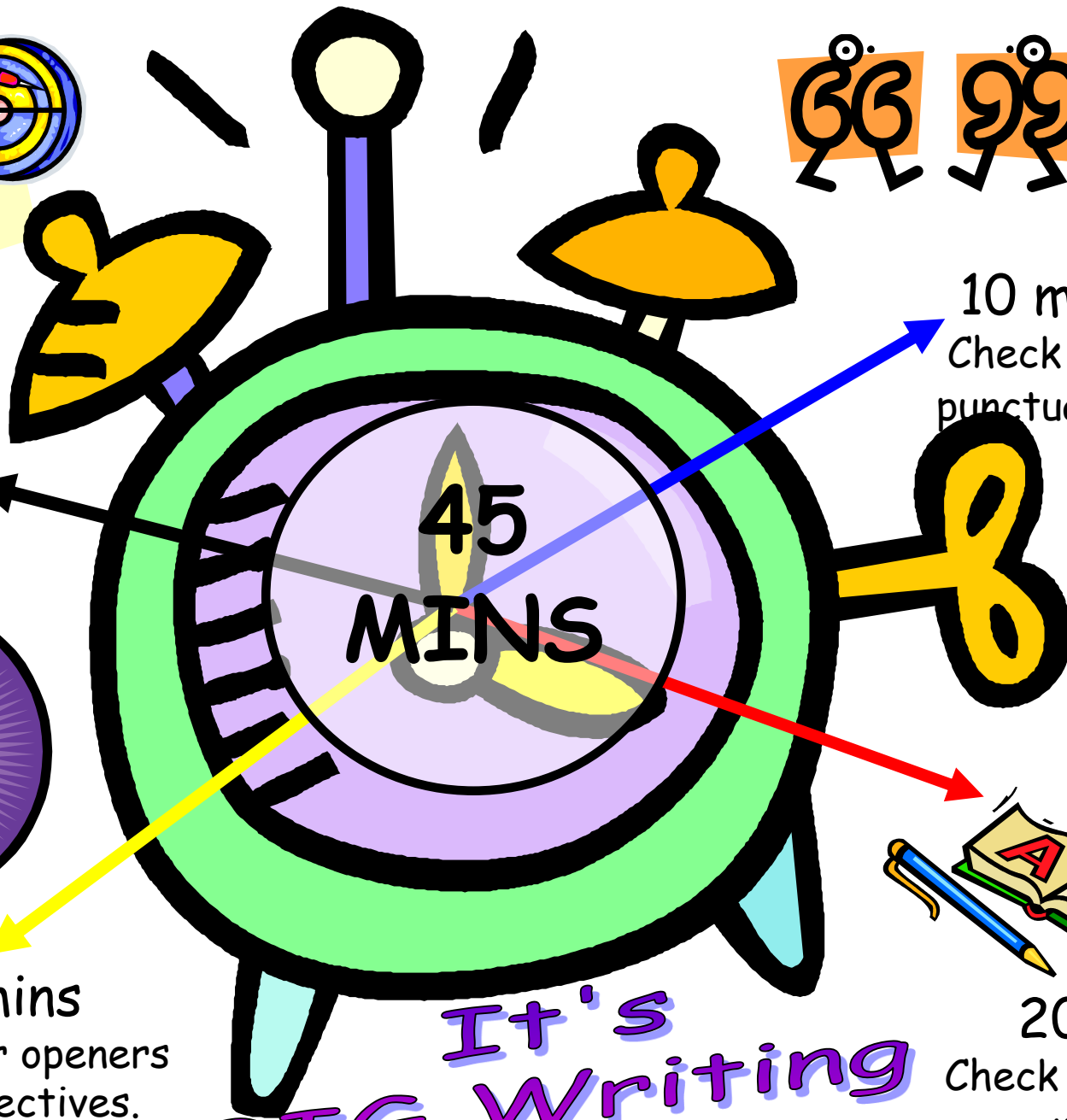


10 mins
Check your
punctuation!

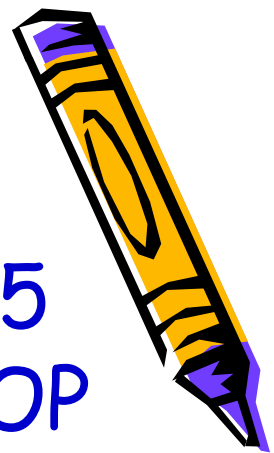


20 mins
Check your WOW
words!

It's
BIG Writing
time!



Stocking Fillers



- Every day aim to finish one lesson 5 minutes early to do some quick VCOP activities.
- Encourage the children to 'steal' good examples of VCOP from authors.



The Criterion Scale
Is used twice a year to
assess/track progress

