

Example of Y5/6 Big Talk task:

Imagine that you could write a recipe for creating a new Roald Dahl character! At home, discuss all the different Roald Dahl characters you can think of (the good and the bad) and how Dahl makes them come to life. Can you think of some wow words to describe the heroes and the villains?

Can you remember the key features of instructions writing?



Remember: no writing required!

Thank you for your help and co-operation in implementing the Big Talk!

Mrs J. Handley
English Subject Leader



The
BIG TALK

BIG TALK HOMEWORK

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Long Lane Primary School, we are committed to continuing to raise standards in Literacy for all our children. In addition to the four Literacy skills practised daily - speaking, listening, reading and writing - each class in school now has a weekly Big Writing session. This is the culmination of the skills taught for the four main aspects of writing: Vocabulary, Connectives (joining words or phrases), Openers (powerful words to start sentences) and Punctuation. Children need to develop their skills in these elements in order to increase their confidence and competence as writers. Research shows that children need to gain confidence in using vocabulary orally before they will use it successfully in their writing. We aim to encourage the development of speaking and listening skills in order to develop the children's writing ability.

To this end, we have introduced a weekly Big Talk homework task, which will be sent home prior to the class

Big Writing session. You will be informed of the topic your child will be writing about in class, and we ask that you discuss the topic with your child in order to help them prepare for the Big Write. Children need to understand that the way we talk is different to the way we write. To prepare for writing, they should be encouraged to use their "writing voice", with no slang or incorrect grammar. Dedicated quiet time should be allocated so that quality speaking and listening can take place.

Big Talk homework is a chance to:

- help your child think through and discuss initial ideas in order to develop the thought process
- engage your child in purposeful conversation
- show that it is fine for different people to have differing views or opinions
- develop your child's vocabulary through the use of ambitious (WOW) words
- stimulate your child's creativity in preparation for writing

This homework involves discussion only, but is just as valuable as any written homework.