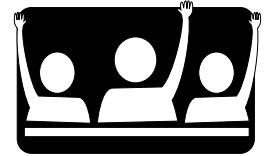


The Little Book of...

English Starter Activities



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Here are some examples from the “Little Book of Starter Activities” by Sue Kilner. There are many more activities in the book.

These examples come from the two main sections of the book; Key Stage 3; featuring 100 activities divided into 12 areas and Key Stage 4 which features both Language and Literature activities. With this book there will be less photocopying and planning and more time to teach!

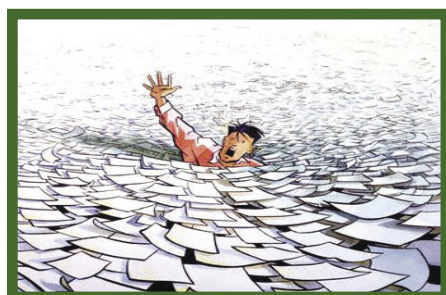


Key Stage 3:

1 Create an anagram of a character's name (selected from the class text). Students should then swap their ideas with their partner for them to solve. As an extension exercise select a variety of words from a particular page of the class text, for students to create new anagrams. This will be more of a challenge!

For example:

Twelfth Night: Oil mavlo = Malvolio
Viaoil = Olivia
Macbeth: The cab M = Macbeth
Quanbo = Banquo



Stop drowning in paperwork,
with this time saving life-line!

2 Using the class text, list all the words you can find that contain three syllables (or any other number of syllables that you chose to assign the class).

Extension: This list of three-syllable words is then to be used to write the “Three-Syllable Poem”.

3 Haiku Poetry. A three line poem, consisting of 5, 7, 5 syllables. Write a haiku about one of the following subjects:

A season.
An emotion.
A day of the week.
A friend.
A member of your family.
An animal.
A hero or heroine.
The sea.
Nature.
A pop star.
A famous event

“It's small, but it packs a punch and saves YOU time to teach!”

4 Make a list of three words (per prefix) that begin with each of the following prefixes:

ir-	in-	un-
re-	im-	en-
ill-	de-	ex-

Extension: Each student to think of three other prefixes to exchange with their partner and complete the exercise over again. Once completed, students can exchange their answers for their partner to mark.

5 Choose one of the following lists of words to write on the board for students to copy and write in alphabetical order. The other lists can be saved for another lesson or given as an extension activity. Students could also write their own list of words to exchange with their partner for them to organise.

- i) book, ball, black, basket, bag, blanket, bee, brown, best, bind, bin, breach.
- ii) pink, perfume, peak, paradox, page, pun, provide, pupil, product, potion.
- iii) move, modern, mirror, mess, merry, mash, marble, matrix, mouth, mystic.
- iv) sea, shack, she, send, seal, secret, score, scale, scene, sign, slim, smoke.
- v) wide, write, wreck, work, world, worse, wit, woe, weird, wave, week, witty.
- vi) cost, cot, coy, complete, clock, clay, cut, curve, cue, cruel, crew, cat, car

Key Stage 3: (Literature)

Here are five more examples that can be used when teaching GCSE Literature. Each activity can be adjusted to fit the text your class is studying.

1 Write a 50 word summary explaining what has happened in the novel/play so far. Avoid writing more than 50 words.

2 Write an alliterative sentence that describes a character (in the novel or play), author or poet, using the first letter of their name.

For Example:

Macbeth

“Menacing Macbeth made a mockery of Scotland after murdering the monarch.”

Of Mice and Men

“Lumbering Lennie labours laboriously; he lunged at Curley and then lashed out at his Labrador.”

3 Write a list of the characters in the novel/play on the board. Students are then to write a list of actors and actresses who they think should play each of the characters, explaining their reasons.

For Example:

Character	Actor/Actress	Reason
Macbeth	Russell Crow	He looks like a strong warrior, but also has an unruly side.
Lady Macbeth	Cate Blanchett	Beautiful and charming, yet has the ability to act deviously. Has a queenly Shakespearean look.
King Duncan	James Gandolfini	Looks like royalty – has the build of a pampered King, yet is authoritative and domineering.
Banquo	Daniel Day-Lewis	Soldierly, yet looks slightly gullible, as though he would fall for the banquet invitation.
Macduff	Sean Bean	Gives an impression of loyalty and looks capable of defeating Russell Crow in a sword fight.

4 Write an acrostic poem using one of the character’s names from the novel/play explaining their role (in the novel/play) through the words of the poem.

For Example:

An acrostic about Banquo:

*Back from battle,
 A-founded by the witches’ news.
 Now his sons will be Kings.
 Quietly suspicious of Macbeth,
 Unguarded when riding to the banquet,
 Overpowered by the murderers.*

5 Write a short description of the events that happen to one of the characters in the novel/play, using one-syllable words only.

For Example:

Macbeth

“He leads in war and wins. A strong man who stabs the King as his wife told



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him to. He lost his friends when he went mad. Died, when he thought he would live for all time.”

Of Mice and Men

“No friends on this farm. Roam to find work and move on. George and Len had a dream with small ducks, pigs, cows and hares. But things went bad for both George and Len.”