

23. Write a haiku (pronounced *hi-koo*) – this is a short, three-line poem that doesn't rhyme. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven and the last line has five syllables. If you don't know what that looks like, here is an example:

My name is Arjan
I am writing a haiku
all about myself!







If you read it aloud, some of the words are broken up into shorter sounds called syllables. How many syllables does your name have? Put your hand underneath your chin and count how many times you move your chin down as you say your name: that's how many syllables you have! Now try it with your friends' names, your school, where you live. You can count syllables this way for any word.

This is what it looks like when you show the syllables:

My⁽¹⁾ **name**⁽²⁾ **is**⁽³⁾ **Ar**⁽⁴⁾ **jan**⁽⁵⁾
I⁽¹⁾ **am**⁽²⁾ **wri**⁽³⁾ **ting**⁽⁴⁾ **a**⁽⁵⁾ **hai**⁽⁶⁾ **ku**⁽⁷⁾
all⁽¹⁾ **a**⁽²⁾ **bout**⁽³⁾ **my**⁽⁴⁾ **self**⁽⁵⁾ !

24. Read ten poems.

25. Roll a story. Find a six-sided die and roll it three times. The first number it comes up with gives you a character, the second throw gives you another character, the third throw gives you the setting and the fourth one tells you what the problem is. Work out how your character is going to solve the problem.

Number	1 st Character	2 nd Character	Setting	Plot
	Dog walker	Caterpillar	Bandstand	Looking for the Golden Wishing Hippo
	Child	Beetle	Tree	Throws a party
	Fisherman	Ladybird	Splash pads	Has an argument and makes up
	Ice cream seller	Bee	Ice age boulder	Rescues someone/ something
	Arboretum ranger	Grass-hopper	Hatherton Lake	The statue of Jerome K Jerome comes to life
	Runner	Butterfly	Boathouse	Finds a village at the bottom of the lake

26. Now that you have a plot, can you turn it into a graphic story? A graphic story is one that is told mainly in pictures, rather like a cartoon.

27. Keep a diary for a month.

28. Write a letter to someone famous, dead or alive (don't send it!)

29. Read ten books in one month!

30. Write a limerick.



words



words



words



words



Just for fun



30 Writing



Challenges



How many will YOU do?



1. Make a Printer's Hat out of newspaper. Look for the Walrus and Carpenter in Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll for a picture of someone wearing a Printer's Hat.



2. Find things in the Arboretum that begin with each of the letters of the word FESTIVAL.



3. Create a story or a poem about something you found in the Arboretum and tell it to your friends and/or family.



4. Colour in one or more of the letters that make up the sentence 'WALSALL FESTIVAL OF WORDS' and then stick it on our roll of wallpaper.



5. Listen to someone reading or performing poetry.



6. Read a short story.



7. Describe your route to school – how do you travel, who goes with you, what do you see, hear, smell, how long does it take you etc?

8. Check the meaning of five words that you don't know and then use them during the day!



9. Write a shape poem – if you write about a bee, make your poem into the shape of a bee, or if you're writing about a car, make it into the shape of a car. Choose anything – animal, person, object, plant, fungus, insect...etc!

10. Write a story or poem inspired by a picture that you've seen.



11. Read it aloud to yourself and see if sounds as good as you'd like it to. Are you using the same words all the time? Find another word that has a similar meaning and see if it sounds better.

12. Write about a day at school

13. Spy the alphabet. How long does it take you to find something for every letter of the alphabet (if you speak a language other than English, you can use your alphabet)?

14. Draw a picture to illustrate your favourite book/story/poem.

15. Write instructions on how to make a sandwich or play your favourite game.

16. Borrow and read a book from the library that the librarian has recommended to you.

17. Complete a crossword.

18. Find a recipe, read it and make something to eat – you might need to ask a grown up to help you.

19. Draw a picture of a funny character, and then invent a name for it.



20. Now write a story about your character in 100 words exactly.

21. Write an acrostic poem using the letters of your name to begin each line, like this:

Sometimes, when it rains
All I do is
Read a book
And lie on the floor
Having adventures!

Can you see the name SARAH?

Put each letter of your own name on a different line and then write a poem about yourself.

22. Using just two characters, write a short story completely in dialogue – no speech indicators (he said, she replied, they exclaimed.) Let the reader know who's speaking by the way they speak (short, sharp sentences or long rambling ones?). Show the reader how excited, cross, sad etc the characters become by what they say and the words they use.