

### Activity 3: Superheroic reporting

#### Objectives



To independently choose what to write about, plan and follow it through.  
(Year 1 Strand 9)  
To make adventurous word and language choices appropriate to the style and purpose of the text.  
(Year 2 Strand 9)

#### What to do

This activity involves constructing a report paragraph using a set of characters from a current television programme/film or craze that is generating a lot of enthusiasm.

- In a shared session, ask the children to think of a creature who has a starring role or special characteristics that would make it interesting as the subject of a report. Invite them to list different things about the character, for example, 'it has a spiral on its belly' and so on.
- Using photocopiable page 27 'Superheroic reporting', ask the children to draw their character in the centre, then use the spaces around it to pick apart some of its features, prompted by the notes around the edge. Make sure they use the sort of adventurous and exciting language such characters conjure up for them.
- Once four or five features have been listed, ask the children how they would turn the facts into sentences. Which fact would they put first? Work through each feature, turning it into a report sentence.
- When the children have completed a paragraph on one character, they can try it with another. These paragraphs will then form a simple report text, providing snapshot views of a current craze.


### Activity 4: Tree splits

#### Objective



To group written sentences together in chunks of meaning or subject.  
(Year 1 Strand 10)

#### What's on the CD-ROM



#### Tree splits

- Write notes to start and continue the process of splitting subject matter, enabling children to see the organisation of their material.

#### What to do

This activity develops the movement from general to specific statements about a subject. In learning to do this, children both develop detail and the organising of the structure of writing.

- Open 'Tree splits' from the CD-ROM. Ask the children to begin with a subject (such as a place or a toy) and type it in the left-hand box.
- Encourage them to think of three distinct features of the subject. If, for example, they are writing about the park, they may write 'The park' on the left and, in the spaces leading from it, record 'swings', 'climbing frame' and 'lots of trees'.
- Having done this, choose which of the three features are to be further developed. Add text boxes from the toolbar around the feature to develop sub-categories containing specific statements. Repeat for the other two features by adding more boxes.
- Finally, ask the children to help you group together all of the general and specific notes made on each feature of the subject and write them in the final three text boxes on screen.
- Hand out photocopiable page 28 'Tree splits' and encourage the children to think of their own subject to write about. Remind them to develop sub-categories for each of the three distinct features, by adding notes around the three middle boxes.