



Ages 6+

# Creative writing

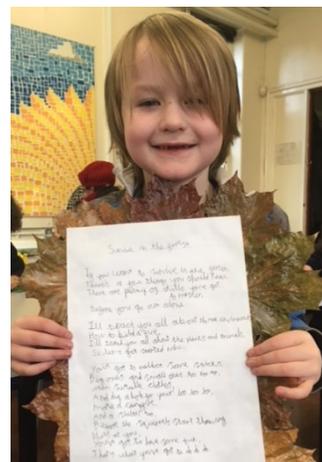
They say that writing and reading are ways to travel in your mind, without leaving home. Anything is possible in your imagination! Here are some ideas for creative writing, linked to Epping Forest.

## Starter activities

Spend some time with whatever nature you have access to, including through the window or your outdoor space. You may not be able to go for a walk in the forest for inspiration, but you could recall your favourite memories of times there, watch a nature documentary about woodland or look up pictures and stories online. Notice the details and think about your senses:

- What can/could you see smell or hear?
- What textures are there?
- How do things move, what do they remind you of?

You may also enjoy reading some works of local writers such as John Clare or books featuring woods or forests: see our [Book Club](#) page for ideas. It is a good idea to note some of your thoughts and descriptions first then plan what you want to write about and what style you will choose.



## Writing Idea: Dear Diary

Write a diary account of a visit to the forest. This can be real or imagined and could be set in the distant past or in the future. Describe the places you visit and draw on as many senses as you can to give it detail: what you can see, hear, smell, touch and feel. This will really help the reader's imagination. You could write about what plants and animals were there, what you did and how you felt. If you want to write as if you were the plant or animal, check out our ['A Day in the Life of'](#) activity. Fancy keeping an ongoing diary? – then check out our ['Nature Journal'](#) activity.

## Writing Idea: A Historic Tale

Find out more about the history of Epping forest and use this as an inspiration for writing a fictional story. Will you choose the time of the Tudor Court, the stone-age, the 'wildwood' (before people) with its wolves and bears, or more recent times? Follow your interests and spend some time really imagining what it might have been like before you write.

## Writing Idea: A New Folktale

In most cultures around the world, there are traditional stories called 'folktales' about animals and plants. Many of them tell the story of 'why' or 'how' things came to be the way they are. They might tell the story of how the ladybird got its spots or how the spider learnt to make webs.

Try reading folktales from different cultures and then write your own about a plant or animal you know. A story is just that: it doesn't have to be scientific – so let your imagination come up with the strangest reason why the hedgehog has spines or the oak got such cracked bark!

## Resources:

[Autumn](#) by John Clare

[The Wood is Sweet](#) John Claire poems for young readers

[Writers in the Forest](#), Forestry England

[Folktales to read online](#)

