

## Writing for Developing Readers

Some things to keep in mind if you are writing stories for developing readers:

- Keep your sentence structures simple. The main point of the sentence should be easy to identify. Steer clear of conjunctions and commas, or use sparingly.
- Use no more than a scattering of multisyllabic words throughout the text. If you have to use them make sure that the meaning can be guessed from the context.
- Do not use foreign words or phrases - even ones in common use eg déjà vu can be off putting.
- Conveying character through accents can be problematic. Learners have trouble recognising idioms and spelling that are different from their own experience of English. However NZ Australian and American idiom is often recognised and enjoyed.
- Use humour if appropriate - male readers respond very well to it.
- Our learners are highly sensitive to being talked down to or preached at. The tone of your writing should be the same as you would use in writing for any adult.