



11 Plus English: Creative Writing Checklist

Use this checklist to see how well your writing meets the goals of the task. Each section tells you what the examiner looks for.

Please note that actual distribution of marks will vary from school to school. This is a guide.

1. Purpose and Organisation (10 marks)

Does your story...

- Answer the question or match the writing prompt?
- Have a clear **beginning, middle and ending**?
- Use **paragraphs** to show new ideas or moments?
- Include **descriptive details** or clear thoughts?
- Finish with a **strong ending** that makes sense?

2. Language (10 marks)

Does your story...

- Use **interesting and ambitious vocabulary** (wow words)?
- Use the **right tense** all the way through (past, present or future)?
- Include **speech or thoughts** from characters?
- Use **writers' tools** – like alliteration, similes, metaphors, or rhetorical questions?
- Help the reader **see, hear, or feel** what's happening through description?

3. Style (5 marks)

Does your story...

- Use **different sentence lengths** to create excitement or calm?
- Start sentences in **different ways** (not always with "I" or "The")?
- Match the **right format** (a story, diary, letter, or description)?
- Sound like a real story, not a list of events?

4. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (5 marks)

Does your story...

- Use **capital letters and full stops** correctly?
- Include other punctuation (commas, speech marks, exclamation marks, etc.)?
- Use **correct spelling** for tricky words?
- Have **good grammar** and proper sentences that make sense?