

# THE WRITER'S TOOLKIT

## Guidance sheet

It's easy to assume that a writer's most valuable resource is their words, and that's quite true! But there are plenty of other tools at your disposal and by making full use of your Writer's Toolkit, you can bring your writing to life.

### **Thesaurus**

A must-have tool for any writer. Whether you prefer a trusty hardcopy or an online version, a thesaurus is invaluable for finding richer and more descriptive alternatives to overused words like 'nice.'

### **Dictionary**

Expanding your vocabulary is a great way to improve your writing. A good dictionary helps you discover new words and refine your language. That being said, trust your instincts! Sometimes the first word that comes to mind captures your meaning best.

### **Other books**

The best writers are avid readers. Reading widely, especially within your chosen genres not only boosts your vocabulary, but also gives you insight into themes, characters and ideas that have been explored before. You'll learn what makes a story resonate with its audiences.

### **Sensory details**

Don't limit yourself to visual descriptions in your writing. Engage your reader by incorporating sensory details. Let them hear the distant hum of traffic, feel the cool breeze on their skin, smell the aroma of fresh coffee or taste the tang of citrus. You don't need to overload a scene, just a few well-placed sensory cues can add that richness and depth that is needed.

### **Sources of inspiration**

Every writer needs sources of inspiration to draw from. Keep a collection of things that spark your creativity such as quotes, photographs, artwork, or even snippets of overheard conversations. Music playlists, films, or nature walks can also help ignite ideas. By surrounding yourself with inspiration, you'll have a ready reserve to turn to whenever you need a creative boost.

### **Writing materials**

It might sound obvious, but having the right tools at hand is crucial. Inspiration can strike anywhere, and many writers have resorted to jotting ideas on napkins, receipts and even on their hands! Save yourself the trouble by keeping a notebook and pen with you at all times.

Investing in a nice notebook and comfortable pen is a must. Don't worry too much about being neat and tidy. Allow yourself to scribble untidy notes, and even doodles where applicable.

### **Writing prompts**

When you're feeling stuck, writing prompts can be a great way to kickstart your creativity. Whether it's a single sentence or an unusual scenario, prompts can help you explore new ideas. Keep a list handy for those moments when inspiration feels out of reach. (Do take a look at my other worksheets if you need some prompts to get you started.)