

10 Grammar Rainbow – Explaining ‘Purpose’

The first ‘P’ is purpose. Essentially, when children are writing non-fiction, do they know how to engage the reader? Are they using questions and hooks and data and statistics? Are they thinking about really delicious impact lines that are going to draw the reader in?

All of these aspects are really crucial. And children can be skilled at this if they have a clear sense of who is going to read their work.

Equally, if they’re writing story, are they thinking about, well, is it a detective story, is it a fairy-tale? Is it perhaps science fiction? Because if it is science fiction, they need to really tune in to the textual features of this sort of writing.

Have they got inventions, invented words, crazy futuristic names, and alongside this, are they making it really believable? All different types of genres have very specific textual features.

Let’s not hide these from children, let’s explicitly show children the rules of writing: “To be a good non-fiction writer, children, you need to do able to do these things...”

By sharing the success criteria, we are then able to carve up our teaching in a more explicit and clear way for standards.