

The Alchemist's letter

PLEASE NOTE The Literacy Shed website should ALWAYS be used under the supervision of an adult. There are some clips on the site which are only suitable for use with Year 6 children or KS3. Please ensure that children do not search the website independently.

The activities in this pack are designed to use with the following clip...

<https://www.literacyshed.com/the-almchemists-letter.html>

Monday – instructions

I would like you to write a set of instructions about how to use the machine. Remember how to set out instructions. Have a look at the annotated instructions (on the next pages) to give you an idea of the things that you need to include.

Tuesday - sequel

What do we know about the life of Veridon? I would like you to write a sequel to the film, based on Veridon's life. Today I would like you to plan out your story. I have included a comic strip so you can design the story as a comic if you would like to.

Wednesday – story writing

Today I would like you to write out the story that you planned yesterday. Try to include as much detail as possible. Look back over your work for the last two weeks and try to include all the different vocabulary and aspects that we have covered. Let's finish the year with the best story ever!!

Thursday – editing

It's time to edit your stories – how can you make your work from yesterday even better? Is there a little letter you could add, like in The Jolly Postman? Are there instructions or illustrations? Let's make this an amazing piece of work everyone!

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¹use organisational devices to structure writing

²include an introduction with questions to interest the reader

³include what is needed and a method or list of steps

⁴put the steps in chronological order

⁵use imperative verbs

⁶include accurate descriptions and technical language

⁷include tips and extra advice for the reader

⁸include a conclusion directed at the reader

How to Prepare a Fantastic Five-a-Day Tasting Menu

When someone offers you a piece of fruit or a portion of vegetables, what's your automatic response? Do you think, "Mmm, yes please!", or is it more likely to be, "Bleugh – no thanks!". Why not get together with some friends to prepare a banquet of amazing, healthy taste experiences?² Just follow³ these simple instructions and you never know: you might discover your new favourite food!

You will need³:

- some sharp knives (make sure there is an adult available to help)
 - a vegetable peeler
 - 2-3 chopping boards
 - 5 or 6 plates/bowls
 - a bottle of lemon juice
- an adventurous selection⁴ of fruits and vegetables (try to choose ones that are edible when raw) such as pears, apricots, bananas, carrots, radishes, beetroot and celery
- a few paper towels

Method³

Before you begin, check⁵ with everyone taking part whether they have any food allergies⁶ to particular fruits or vegetables. **Do not use any of those foods.**⁷

1. Firstly, wash⁵ your hands thoroughly with soap and hot water. Hygiene⁶ is very important.
2. Next, gather⁵ all the ingredients and equipment you require and arrange them neatly on your work surface.
3. Once you have everything you need, rinse⁵ each piece of fruit or vegetable under cold running water, then pat them dry with paper towels.
4. Then, carefully peel⁵ any fruits or vegetables whose skin is inedible, disposing of any waste in the rubbish or compost bin.
5. When everything is ready, place⁵ an individual fruit on the chopping board and hold it gently - but steadily. Remember to keep⁵ your fingers safely curled backwards away from where you will be cutting!

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6. Gripping the knife handle firmly, place⁶ the blade on the food and slice downwards to the board.
7. Now that you have at least one flat surface, turn the food over onto that side, where it will stay still more easily.
8. Slice or chop⁵ the fruit/vegetable into bite-size pieces⁶: it's a mistake to choose a large piece, only to find you don't like it and as a consequence it has to be thrown away. Remember – you can always have more if you want!⁷
9. After that, arrange⁵ them attractively on serving plates; why not try to make pictures or patterns with the different colours?
10. Repeat⁵ with each item until you have a delicious display of colourful, mouth-watering, vitamin-packed⁶ food all ready to eat.
11. Finally, rinse⁵ any juice from your hands and ensure the sharp knives' blades are placed safely out of reach.

Top Tip⁷

Some fruits, such as apples and pears, can quickly go brown (a process called oxidation⁶) once they are cut. To prevent this, sprinkle the flesh⁶ with a little lemon juice.

Now you are ready to try a delicious variety of new foods; make sure you satisfy your curiosity and taste every one! Compare your responses with your friends – is there a favourite new food amongst you all?⁸

