

Handwriting

Approach: Independent

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: Answer sheet, pen, timer.

Questions/instructions

I'm going to give you your answer sheets and pens for this activity but please don't start any writing until I tell you.

Hand out student answer sheets titled "My Very Best Writing" along with blue ballpoint pens.

In this activity you are going to write the sentence on the answer sheet in your very best writing, then in your fastest writing. The sentence says,

"Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack."

The first part of the activity is to write the sentence in your very best writing. You have 3 minutes to do this, so you should be able to write it more than once. There is more space over the page for writing if you need it.

You can start now, doing your very best writing.

Allow exactly three minutes, then ask students to stop at the word they are writing.

Now look at the answer sheet where it says "My Fastest Writing". This time I want you to use your fastest writing, and to write as much as you can in 3 minutes. Remember, you are copying the sentence at the top of the page. There is more space over the page for writing if you need it.

You can start now, doing your fastest writing.

Allow exactly three minutes, then ask students to stop at the word they are writing. Collect in the answer sheets.

		% responses	
		y4	y8
Slope uniformity:	substantial	40	63
	some	48	32
	little	12	5
Letter size uniformity:	substantial	31	57
	some	54	39
	little	15	4
Letter shape uniformity:	substantial	41	58
	some	51	38
	little	8	4
Distinction between capital and lowercase uniformity:	substantial	50	61
	some	28	27
	little	22	12
Number of legible completed sentences:	8-9	0	11
	6-7	2	47
	4-5	24	27
	2-3	63	5
	0-1	11	0

Commentary

Year 8 students were substantially more successful than year 4 students at achieving consistency in letter formation, and at writing quickly.

HIGH RANGE BEST WRITING

YEAR 8

YEAR 4

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack.

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack. Pigs oink when I

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack.

Pigs oink when I let my bees buzz or six ducks quack.

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack. Pigs oink when I

MID RANGE BEST WRITING

YEAR 8

YEAR 4

Pigs oink when I let my five
bees or six ducks quack.

pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six
ducks quack. pigs oink when I let

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz
or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees
buzz or six ducks quack

pigs oink when I let my five bees
buzz or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my six ducks
quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or
six ducks quack.

Pig oink when I let my five bees buzz or six duck
quack Pigs

LOW RANGE BEST WRITING

YEAR 8

YEAR 4

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks quack

pigs oink when I let my five bees Buzz or six ducks
quack

pigs oink when I let my five
bees go Buzz or six ducks quack

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six
ducks quack. Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz

Pigs oink when I let my five bees buzz or six ducks
quack Pigs oink when I let my five

Pigs oink when I let five bees
buzz or six ducks quack.

pigs oink WHEN I let
my Five bees buzz or
Six ducks quack