

Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils  
Upper Key Stage 2 Creative Writing Challenge

The Ogre Downstairs by Diana Wynn Jones is one of our 2026 Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils books.

We are challenging Upper KS2 pupils across the country to participate in our creative writing challenge inspired by The Ogre Downstairs



In *The Ogre Downstairs*, the children are given a chemistry set. But this isn't an ordinary chemistry set and when they try the experiments, something surprising happens... they discover how to fly!

Look carefully at the colourful bubbling experiments in the picture above. Can you:

1. Invent a name for each experiment (for example: The Flying Fizzy Potion or The Colour-Changing Mix).
2. Choose one experiment and write a short story about what happens when someone tries it.

consider:

- What happens when the mixture starts bubbling?
- Does anything unexpected happen?
- Who tries the experiment?
- Where do they end up?

Share your experiments with us! Send your stories to [education@cheltenhamfestivals.org](mailto:education@cheltenhamfestivals.org) by Thursday 21st May 2026. One lucky winner will be awarded a prize and a certificate!