

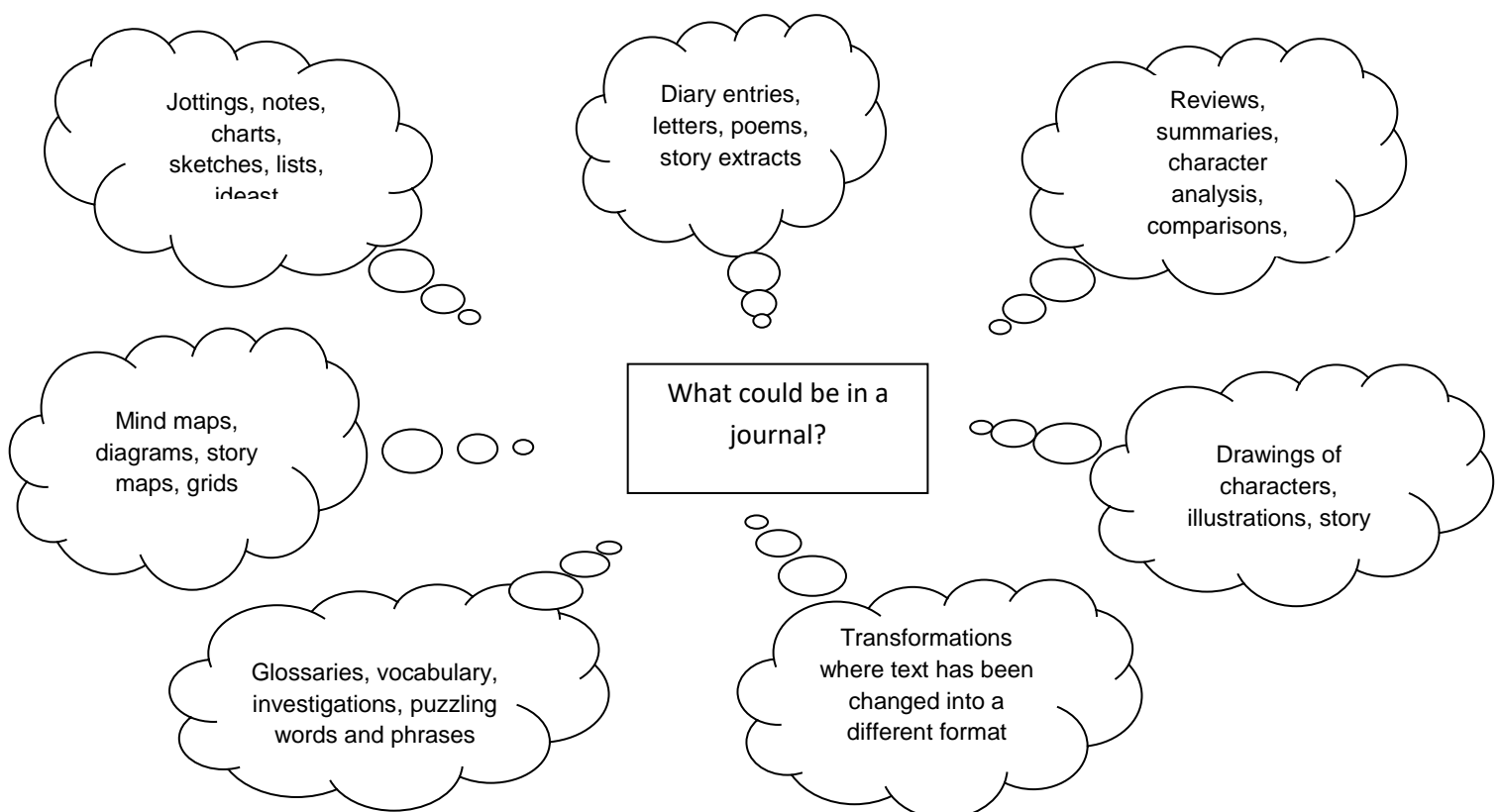
# Reading Journals

Reading journals can be used in different ways. They provide pupils with an opportunity to respond to a variety of texts. They also provide teachers with information about pupils' thinking and comprehension skills as they engage with text. Journals can provide space for reflection and evaluation as well as speculation and exploration of ideas.



There are many formats for reading journals. Much will depend on the age and ability of the children, personal preference and how reading is organised. It could be a book or folder but might also be kept as an audio diary or on a computer.

Children can use a journal for fiction or non-fiction texts and there are a number of responses they can make to what they read. We encourage children to respond creatively to what they read.



## What can I write in my journal?

These activities cover a range of text types and can be adapted for pupils of different ages.

- Character descriptions/portrait galleries/character comparisons
- Explanations of settings/ story maps/ setting illustrations
- Book reviews/ book covers/ letter exchange about books (possible e-mail)
- Cartoon strips
- Lists of words and phrases used to create atmosphere/ suspense, etc.
- A newspaper report linked to events in a narrative context
- Prediction of several possible outcomes
- 'Between the lines' -explore fictional events not directly reported in the text
- A diary extract written by a character
- Advice to a character
- A glossary of technical vocabulary specific to a topic
- An annotated diagram using factual information
- A list of facts learned from a non-fiction book
- Story graphs which depict character or plot development
- A summary limited to a certain number of words
- Notes made by picking out key points
- Evaluation of the layout of a non-fiction text/ comparison of two texts about same topic
- 'Dear author'
- A letter expressing a point of view

- An invitation to a character
- Rewriting an extract from the point of view of a different character
- An advert using key features that have been investigated and identified

### **Want to see some really good ones?**

Some amazing examples of reading journals are displayed on the Key Stage 2 site at the bottom of the stairs leading to the Year 6 classrooms. It's an interactive display. Have a look!