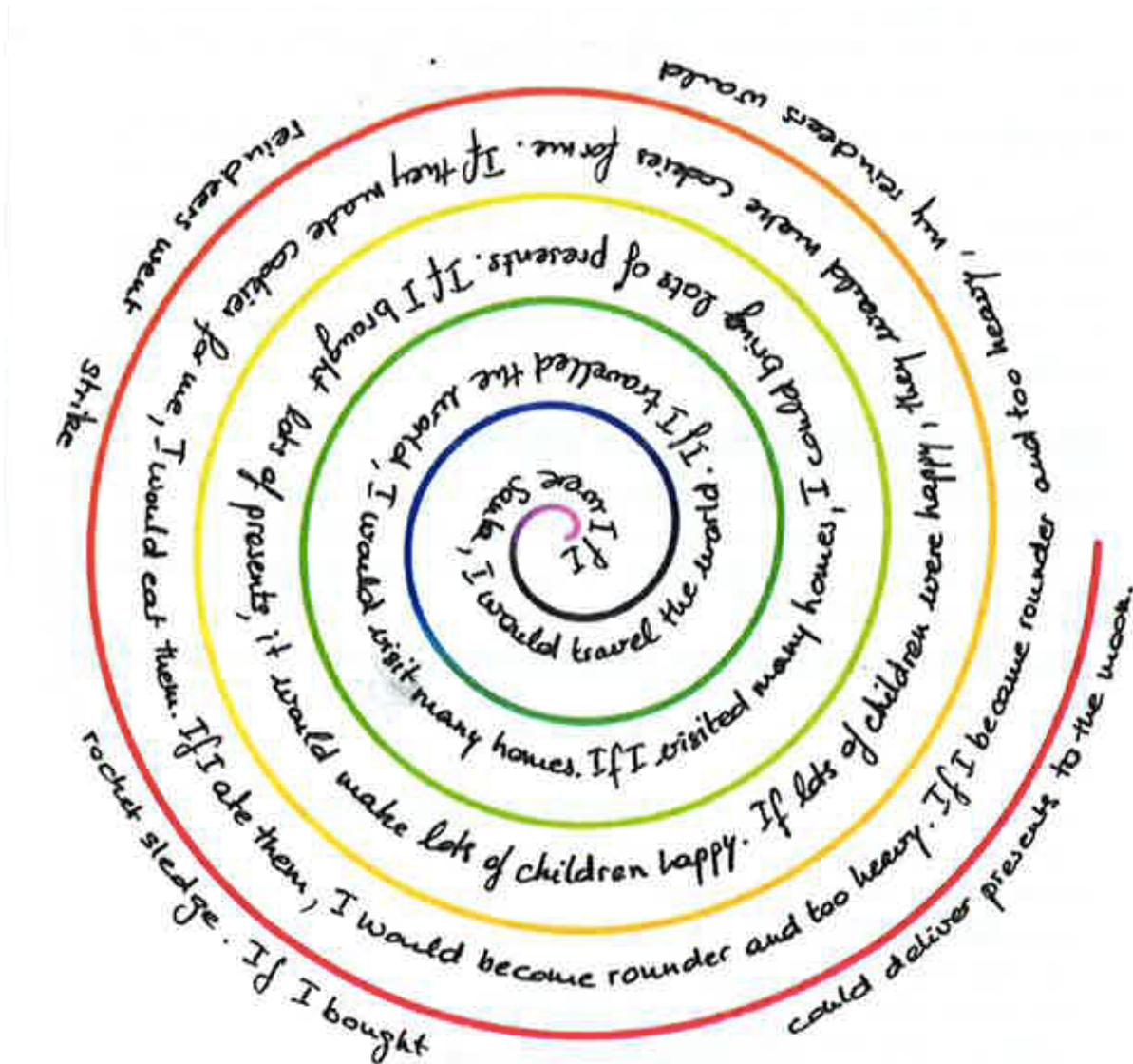


Creative writing¹

Automatic writing: snake or spiral poem

In this activity, students write following a shape and using a repetitive structure automatically.



Objectives: practice a structure (If... + second conditional) and become a more fluent writer.

Material: Square sheets of paper in different sizes and colours.

Procedure: Each student chooses a paper. Explain that they are going to start their text in the middle of their paper and write from there in spirals becoming

¹ Cette activité est proposée par Véronique Buffat, in « Creative writing in mixed ability classes in lower secondary school », ETAS Journal, 36/3, Summer 2019

bigger and bigger until the sheet is full. Give them a choice of possible beginnings:

If I were a boy/a girl ...

If I were 100 years old ...

If I won the lottery ...

If I were 5 years old ...

If I were Santa Claus ...

To make the writing automatic, the second part of each sentence is always the beginning of the next sentence, e.g. If I were 5 years old, I would sing in class every day. If I sang in class every day, I would love school, If I loved school, I wouldn't have any problem getting out of bed in the morning...

Once students have completed their spiral text, they read it to someone else, as reading in a spiral is a kinaesthetically interesting experience. During this task, students write and then listen to the same forms repetitively, so it is a fun and creative way of drilling the second conditional (or any grammar rule) and irregular past simple forms.