**Let’s write a story!**

**Equipment:** A4 paper and felt pens (one per row of the audience)

Right, so we tried to write a sentence earlier, but our sentence didn’t really reflect a prompt, and the words didn’t have any connection to each other.

For example, if the animal selected was a cat, then verbs like ‘purred’ and ‘pounced’ and ‘lazed’ would be far more likely than verbs such as ‘barked’ and ‘fetched’.

So, we’re going to try again. We’re going to write a story.

This time, we’re going to be able to see the last few words in the sentence.

We will also have a prompt.

Our writing prompt is:

**Write a story about Spider-Man visiting Edinburgh**

This activity is very similar to the game Consequences where you write words and fold over the paper and pass it on (or Cheddar Gorge where you try to keep a sentence going as long as possible. We’re going to adapt this a little so we can see the last three words in the sentence.

So, everyone on the right side of the room is going to get a piece of paper and a pen.

**[distribute a sheet of A4 paper and a pen to everyone sitting on the furthest right of each row in the audience]**

Here are our instructions, our algorithm:

**Write a word. Pass the paper on.**

**Write a second word below the first. Pass the paper on.**

**Write a third word below the first. Pass the paper on.**

**Write a fourth word. Fold the paper to cover the first word. Pass the paper on.**

**Write another word. Fold the paper and pass it on.
Only three words to be visible at any time.**

We’ve even got a loop in our program. The last section of our algorithm will be repeated until we get to the end of the row.

So lets give this a try. Can everyone sitting with paper and pen on the righthand side write down the first word of our story.

When you’re finished, pass the paper and pen along the row to the person on your left.

The second person should now look at the first word and write a second word for our story. What word might be likely to come next?

When you’re done, pass the pen and paper to the third person in the row. You should look at the first two words and write another word for our story.

Same again, when you’re done pass the pen and paper to the fourth person in the row. You should look at the first three words and write another word for our story.

Now, person number four – when you’re done fold over the top of the page so the first word is covered. Then pass the paper and pen along.

Next person, you’ve got the idea? Look at the three words you can see in the story and write the next word. Cover over the top visible word so that only the three most recent words can be seen and then pass it along.

Keep it going until we have a story (or we get to the end of the row!)

You’ve already had a lot of training. You’ve got a pretty good grasp of the rules of the English language already encoded into your head as well as an understanding of superhero popular culture and local geographic knowledge, so we haven’t had to train you for that!

**[wait until the papers reach the end of the rows]**

Fab! OK, the person at the end of the row can now unroll their paper and read it!

Does anyone want to share their stories?

**[get a volunteer or two to read their stories aloud]**

Feel free to pass the paper back along the rows for the others to read.

So, we’ve managed a little better with our stories than our sentence earlier, but there’s still a lot of training and testing required before we’re competing with ChatGPT 4!