

## How Writing Works

From the invention of the alphabet to the explosion of the internet, Dominic Wyse takes us on a unique journey into the process of writing. Starting with seven extraordinary examples that serve as a backdrop to the themes explored, the book pays particular attention to key developments in the understanding of writing and language, including Aristotle's grammar, socio-cultural multimodality, and pragmatist philosophy of communication. Analogies with music are used as a comparator throughout the book, yielding radically new insights into composition processes. The book presents the first comprehensive analysis of the *Paris Review Interviews* with the world's greatest writers such as Louise Erdrich, Gabriel García Márquez, Ted Hughes, and Marilynne Robinson. It critically reviews the most influential guides to styles and standards of language, and presents new empirical research on young people's creativity and writing. Drawing on over twenty years of work, Wyse presents research-informed innovative practices to demonstrate powerfully how writing can be learned and taught.

DOMINIC WYSE is Professor of Early Childhood and Primary Education at University College London Institute of Education. He is author of *The Good Writing Guide for Education Students* and *Teaching English, Language and Literacy*. He has been an invited expert for BBC *Newsnight* and the BBC Radio Four *Today* programme, and for the *Guardian* and *Times* newspapers.

# How Writing Works

*From the Invention of the Alphabet to the Rise  
of Social Media*

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Dominic Wyse

*University College London*



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This book is dedicated to Pascal Wyse, an outstanding  
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