Story writing – lesson plans 1 – 5

Parents! We welcome you on this learning journey to write a story. Please find below a series of lessons that build towards a final story.

It has been split into 4 parts as this is how it would be set out at school. Feel free to condense or extend where necessary and enjoy 😊

Lesson one: to create a story board

Start by watching this short animation from the literacy shed: <https://www.literacyshed.com/onceinalifetime.html>

Set in a fantasy world.  A man is sailing in his boat, through the air!  He hears a noise and suddenly gliding into view are some giant, flying turtles.

Use this animation to get your children to use adjectives to describe and conjunctions (and, because, but) to extend their ideas - Collect verbs and adverbs to do with floating and sailing gracefully.

Children to write a story board (find template on website – small and large lines) for their own story using the animation to kick start their ideas. They could change aspects of the story, but it should be a fantasy adventure.

For each box your child should draw a picture and write a simple sentence or a collection of adjectives to describe the part of the story they are depicting. (We have done these in class before so they should be familiar with the layout).

Help your children to break their story down into 6 parts. E.g. the first box as introducing their characters and ship, second box – the flying turtles (or their own animal), third – the start of their journey, fourth – the problem, fifth – the resolution, sixth – the happy ending.

Questions to help your children:

* where do these turtles take him?
* What is the character feeling? Is he excited/nervous to go?
* What does the character see?
* What happens when he gets there?
* How does he get back?
* Does he want to?

Please encourage your children to use adjectives to describe where possible.

TopTip: The more thought the children put into this part, the easier the following lessons will be

Lesson 2: to start writing the beginning of the story.

Start by re - watching the literacy shed clip and looking over their story board. <https://www.literacyshed.com/onceinalifetime.html>

Ask children to focus on the first two boxes of their story board. Aim for a paragraph for each. Encourage children to compose their sentences out loud first and remember to use their non-negotiables:

* finger spaces,
* capital letters,
* sounding out for spellings,
* neat handwriting on the line
* adjectives to describe

You can use lined paper or the template on the website (writing template) or the computer.

Prompt children to reread their story to check for mistakes instead of pointing them out.

Lesson 3: to continue writing the story.

Start by re-reading their story so far and looking over their story board at the next two boxes.

Ask children to focus on the third and fourth boxes of their story board. Aim for a paragraph for each. Encourage children to compose their sentences out loud first and remember to use their non-negotiables. (see above)

Have a “cheeky check-point” half way through for the children to reread and check their non-negotiables.

Lesson 4: to write their ending.

Start by re-reading their story so far and looking over their story board at the last two boxes.

Ask children to focus on the last two boxes of their story board. Aim for a paragraph for each. Encourage children to compose their sentences out loud first and remember to use their non-negotiables. (see above)

Remind children that “they all lived happily ever after” can be their final sentence if they wish but it is not an ending on its own.

Finished! Well done. The children can now add their finishing touches e.g. drawing their pictures if they haven’t done so, creating a front cover for their story, attaching it altogether to create a book.