

Resource 17: Lesson plan: The Face in the Window

The Face in the Window
Grade 6
<p>Objectives to be taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to structure a story with an arresting opening, a developing plot, a complication, a crisis and a satisfying resolution • portray character, directly and indirectly, through description, dialogue and action • use a range of narrative devices to involve the reader, eg, withholding information
<p>Learning outcome(s): to write a short story that satisfies the above criteria.</p>
<p>Resources needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Face in the Window short story • flip chart
<p>Shared reading activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read the short story with the class • through discussion and reference to the text show how the story immediately catches the reader's attention by succinctly setting the scene in the opening paragraph • ask the class to identify the main points of plot development and list them on the flip chart • have the children identify the complication that arises when the police arrive • discuss the nature of the crisis that brings about the dénouement of the story • explain how the impact of a story's ending can be enhanced by the narrative device of withholding information – ask the class how this device is used in this tale
<p>Shared writing activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • show the children how the writer illuminates a character by using simple but effective dialogue, eg, 'You must come quickly,' she gasped. 'I think my life is in danger!' (the terror of the young woman) and description, eg, a blaze of flashing lights and howling sirens (the urgency of the police) • now model writing the conversation between the two police officers on their way to the young girl's house
<p>Guided group/individual work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set the class the task of writing a short story containing all the features discussed above
<p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select targeted children to read their stories to the class • check that the stories have all the elements required