

Writing lesson idea – ‘Whistleless’

Purpose

Explain that the purpose of this writing activity is to retell a narrative (story).

Lesson one- generating and organising ideas

Motivation and generating ideas

Ask the students if they can whistle? Let them have a try.

Watch the short film ‘Whistleless’ (Ladybird films, Director Siri Melchior)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MTzDPt03SI>

N.B. If this link is broken, Google search: ‘Whistleless’ Ladybird films, Director Siri Melchior

Think, Pair, Share: Discuss the problem in the story.

Make a word list of the characters and the key words, e.g. whistle



Watch the movie again.

Students use the ‘dot to dot’ planning sheet to record the order of events. (See exemplar.)

Review and share the ‘dot to dot’ planners.

Lesson two- writing

Possible criteria (refer to pages 33-36 of The Writing Book for other ideas)

Emergent writers	Early and fluent writers
Write a sentence about the bird	Use 3 descriptive adjectives
Include a feeling 	Include 2 details from the adding details chart (PM23)
(A.) Use capital letters and full stops	 Challenge: Include a complex sentence

Teacher modelled/shared writing

Model how to compose a sentence/sentences based on the criteria.

Independent writing

Students retell the story using the planning sheet as a prompt.

Self-check

Read your writing in a quiet voice.

Can you spot 2 mistakes?

Partner-check

I like ... because ...

Circle 3 descriptive adjectives (for early and fluent writers).

Wrap up

Celebrate the mistakes students have fixed up during the self-check. In small groups, students share their favourite sentence. Celebrate the students who have achieved the challenge.

Other ideas

The students could retell the story from one of the character’s perspectives.

Change the characters or the problem in the story.