

National Curriculum Reference: KS3 Literacy En3; 1c.

Aim: To exploit language and structure of sentences to create effect.

Objectives: To explore different story 'openers' to create tension and mood.

Assessment/Success Criteria: Children will have written a paragraph using a mix of very short sentences alongside longer ones, and a range of punctuation to create a deliberate effect.

Teacher Notes: Re – assessment / success criteria, discuss use of adjectives, commas and other features prior to starting the activity.

Resources: Internet access to www.rnli.org.uk/shorething - Grace Darling story

Key Vocabulary:

Paragraph connectives discursive narrative
Impact technique dramatic

Lesson Plan:

Timing	Section	Activity
5 mins	Introduction	Read the Grace Darling story on the website www.rnli.org.uk/shorething Explain that the text has been kept deliberately short to reflect each picture.
10 mins	Paired work	Cover the text below the first scene. Ask the pupils to work together to wordstorm exciting openers and record their ideas. Share ideas with the class and discuss favourite phrases. Swap papers with another pair and highlight any words which could be made more interesting - use a thesaurus to provide good alternatives. Share with the class.
15 mins	Shared writing	Pupils work on individual whiteboards and write an interesting sentence describing the tension of the storm. Remind them that verbs and adverbs used to start a sentence can make more impact on the reader. When ready, ask for a few examples. Write one of these up so everybody can see it and model the thought process together, improving the sentence as you go along. Repeat this procedure with the second sentence.
15 mins	Independent work	Pupils work independently to continue to develop an effective opening paragraph, progressing to a second if time allows.
10 mins	Plenary	Peer assessment -. Ask the pupils to look at their partner's work and highlight all words and phrases that they feel makes an impact on them as the reader. Discuss together as a class.