

Activity

Episode 6 10th March 2015

Writing Lesson

Key Learning

Students will identify, describe, and discuss similarities and differences between texts. Students will create literary texts that experiment with structures, ideas and features of selected authors.

The Australian Curriculum

English / Literature / Examining literature

Identify, describe, and discuss similarities and differences between texts, including those by the same author or illustrator, and evaluate characteristics that define an author's individual style (ACELT1616) Year 6



Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques, for example character development and plot tension (ACELT1605) Year 4



English / Literacy / Interpreting, analysing, evaluating

Analyse strategies authors use to influence readers (ACELY1801) Year 6



English / Literature / Creating literature

Create literary texts that experiment with structures, ideas and features of selected authors (ACELT1798) Year 5









Create literary texts that adapt features encountered in other texts, for example, narrative viewpoint, structure of stanzas, contrast and juxtaposition (ACELT1625) Year 7







Experiment with text structures and language features and their effects in creating literary texts, for example, using rhythm, sound effects, monologue, layout, navigation and colour (ACELT1805) Year 7











Discussion Questions

- 1. In small groups, discuss the *Writing Lesson* story.
- 2. About how many books has Andy Griffiths written?
- 3. What does he say is the most important part of the writing process?
- 4. Think of three words to describe Andy Griffiths' books.
- 5. What tips does he have for writing great stories?
- 6. Describe the sorts of stories you like to read and/or write.
- 7. When you write a story, where do you get your ideas from?
- 8. Who is your favourite author? Explain your answer.
- 9. Illustrate an aspect of this story.
- 10. What did you learn watching the Writing Lesson story?



Activities

Negotiate with students how many activities they complete from each section.

Remember and understand

Can you recall the three story writing tips that Andy Griffiths talks about in this story? As a class write down Andy's tips and explain why you think they are useful. Here they are:

- Tip #1 Base your story on your own life and the things that happened to you and the people in your life.
- Tip #2 It's a good idea to work really quickly, write your ideas down as they come into your head and don't worry about grammar or spelling to start with.
- Tip #3 Rewrite your work constantly and make it as good and clear as you can.

Brainstorm a list of words to describe Andy Griffiths' writing style. Here are some to get you started.

- adventurous
- funny
- attention grabbing
- exaggerated
- imaginative

As a class read the *Band-aid* extract from Andy Griffiths' book Just Crazy. http://www.andygriffiths.com.au/books/justcrazy.htm

- Before you read Band-aid...
 - o Take the CRAZY TEST to find out if this book is right for you.
 - What do you think this story will be about? Write down your ideas.
- After you read Band-aid...
 - o Summarise what you have read.
 - Draw pictures to go with the words.
 - O What could have happened next?

Apply and analyse

Watch this workshop <u>The Baby and The Dinosaur</u> to find out how Andy Griffiths makes his stories exciting, moving and absorbing.

- Here is an extract from the video to give you an idea.
 - "Here's a baby. We're going to write a story about it. Would you write a story about a good baby or a bad baby? A bad baby, of course! Because a good baby just sits in the cot and gurgles a bit. But a bad baby jumps out of the cot, out of the window and runs down the street where it can get into trouble."
- What is Andy Griffith trying to teach us in this video?
- How does he hold his readers interest?





- Make a list of useful tips for story writing. Include tips on how to build character development, plot tension and narrative.
- Write your own imaginative piece about a baby and a dinosaur. Start by brainstorming
 possible scenarios. Remember to bring danger in from where the reader is least expecting
 it. Experiment with different narrative structures such as flashback and multiple
 perspectives.

Choose a book written by Andy Griffiths and then write your own book review.

- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book? Why?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- Include an illustration with your review. It could be a sketch of the front cover or one of the characters from the story.
- Tip: Think about the audience you are trying to reach. Use effective vocabulary and accurate and persuasive language.
- Class activity! Hold your own class book club. Everyone will read the same Andy Griffiths book, either individually or as a class and then discuss the story.



Choose and explore two stories written by Andy Griffiths.

• Compare these stories and find similarities and differences.

	text 1	text 2
Subject or theme characterisation text structure plot development tone vocabulary sense of voice narrative point of view visual techniques		

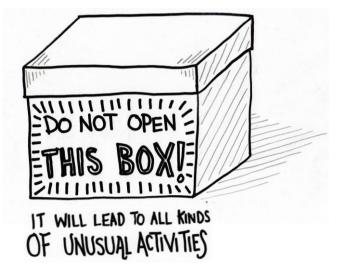


Evaluate and create

How do you start a story?

- Using illustrations, in comic strip format, tell your own story. Your first drawing will be a box with the words "DO NOT OPEN THIS BOX!"
- Your second drawing will include the box with the lid open. What is coming out of the box?
- Include dialogue to accompany your illustrations. This will form the start of your story!

Check out this story starter generator! http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/



Choose a character from one of Andy Griffiths' books. Imagine the character's life events.

- Describe the character, including personality traits, motivations, feelings and actions.
- Put the character in a new situation that you have imagined. Write a short story detailing the events. Tell the story in an adventurous and humorous way.
- Include illustrations to match your story.

Choose three illustrations from your favourite Andy Griffiths book.

- Write your own short story to match these illustrations.
- Alternatively choose a chapter from your favourite Andy Griffiths book and draw your own illustrations to match. Your illustrations could be in a poster format, using computer animation or a comic strip.

Write a seguel or preguel or rewrite an ending to your favourite Andy Griffiths story.

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Book Week http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4067162.htm

Behind the News – Young Writer http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4131960.htm

Andy Griffith – Official website http://www.andygriffiths.com.au/index.htm

YouTube – Andy Griffiths Books https://www.youtube.com/user/AndyGriffithsBooks

Andy Griffiths – A Teacher's Guide to the Treehouse Series
http://www.treehousebookseries.com/uploads/books/guides/13_Story_Treehouse_Guide_jyF8wDT
.pdf

