



Section 2: Developing writing

Activity 1: Issues

Objective

To sustain conversation, explain or give reasons for their views or choices. (Year 3 Strand 1)

What to do

In this lesson, children explore issues for realistic plotlines by relating them to their own experiences.

- Work with the children in small groups and hand out sets of cards cut from photocopiable page 25 'Issues'. Explain that these represent more stories by Bel Mooney, the author of the extract 'Explain!' (on photocopiable page 11).
- Ask the groups to shuffle the cards and then discuss examples from their own experiences that relate to each title. For example, 'It's not fair!' might relate to how they feel about a sibling getting all the attention at home, or getting away with things when they don't.
- Allow them time to shuffle the pack of cards and discuss two or more issues.
- Bring the class back together and invite volunteers from the groups to relate experiences that illustrate each of the issues. Record their suggestions on the board, under the title headings.

Activity 2: What's the problem?

Objective

To use some drama strategies to explore stories or issues. (Year 3 Strand 4)

What to do

This activity uses role play to explore issues as starting points for stories.

- Work with the children in small groups and give each group one of the scenario cards from photocopiable page 26 'What's the problem?'.
- Ask each group to develop a short role play based around the issue shown on their card. Encourage them to think about the characters that are involved in their scenario, how they are feeling and how they might demonstrate their feelings (through what they say, the tone of their voice, their expressions and so on).
- Once the groups have developed their scenes, gather the class together to watch the groups take turns to perform. Can the children guess what the issue was?
- Encourage the children to begin to collect an ideas bank of issues/dilemmas. They can source them from other stories they read, from other media (newspapers or news reports on television) and from their own experiences.