Activity 5: Create a character

Objective

To use settings and characterisation to engage readers' interest.
(Year 4 Strand 9)

What's on the CD-ROM

Create a character
- Type in features to create a character.

What to do

This activity focuses on developing the main character for a realistic story.

- Tell the children they are going to develop the main character for the story they planned in Activity 4.

- First, discuss the characters who feature in the three extracts from Section 1. Re-read the extracts together, inviting the children to pick out any salient information about the characters – whether they are a boy or girl, how old they are, what we learn about their home/family life, and what characteristics they display. Briefly discuss what a main character needs to be (believable, likeable, someone we want to succeed) and why (so we are engaged in reading about them).

- Open 'Create a character' from the CD-ROM. Consider each feature in turn, typing the children's suggestions in the boxes. Alternatively, invite them to do this activity using photocopiable page 29.

- Encourage the children to go on to develop their own ideas for a character to feature in any of the story scenarios from Activity 2 using photocopiable page 29.

Activity 6: Settings

Objective

To use settings and characterisation to engage readers' interest.
(Year 4 Strand 9)

What's on the CD-ROM

Settings
- Click on the cards to select a setting.

What to do

This activity focuses on describing a setting for a realistic story.

- Open 'Settings' from the CD-ROM or distribute photocopiable page 30. Explain to the children that they are going to pick a setting for the events that happen in a realistic story, then develop it by thinking about the details of description, the events that take place and how the main character feels when he or she is there.

- In the first set of three cards click on one card to reveal a general setting, and then click on one card from the second set to choose the exact location in the setting.

- Hand out photocopiable page 31 'Describe a setting'. With the children working in pairs, tell them to work together to develop the setting by completing each section.

- In a further session, let the children work on computers to pick another setting before filling in the photocopiable sheets again to develop their ideas for a realistic story.