

Talk about it

SECTION

5

It's party time!

Objective: To work effectively in groups, with each group member contributing ideas and opinions.

What you need: Photocopiable page 24, a photocopy of the party scene at Grannie Island's for each group.

What to do

- Organise the class into small groups and ask them to look at the twelfth double-page spread (the party scene).
- Assign a main character from this scene to each group member and tell them to individually make notes on their character's thoughts at this point in the story.
- Each group should then discuss the scene and decide as a group what they think each character might be saying/thinking. Encourage the children to support their opinions with reasons.
- When each group has come to a decision ask them to present their ideas to the whole class.

During each group's presentation the other groups should listen carefully and make notes on any important points raised. This could lead to a class discussion in which the children could come to an agreement.

- Hand out photocopiable page 24 to each child and ask them to use the notes they have made to individually complete the speech bubbles for each main character.
- The children could then work in their groups and act out the party scene.

Differentiation

For older/more confident children: Ask children to choose one of the speech bubbles created during the activity and write a dialogue sentence using speech marks.

For younger/less confident children: Ensure children are allocated a straightforward character whose speech does not require a high level of inference.

Granma's on the phone!

Objective: To explore familiar themes and characters through improvisation and role play.

What you need: Writing materials, a 'telephone' for each pair of children (empty yoghurt cartons linked with string).

What to do

- Set the scene: Granma Mainland has returned home to the city on the mainland and she is telephoning Katie to say thank you for a lovely stay. Explain that the children are going to work in pairs, taking on the role of the two characters speaking to each other on the phone.
- Split the class into two groups – half are Katie and half Granma Mainland. In the two groups, discuss what the characters may say on the telephone and what questions they may ask. Each group will require an adult to act as scribe to write down their ideas.

- When the children have enough material for their conversation, each Granma finds a Katie. Provide each pair with a 'telephone' and ask them to sit on the floor, back to back.
- You should act as Mrs McColl, calling for Katie and telling her that Granma is on the phone. The children then carry out their conversation. Emphasise the need to listen carefully to what is said (particularly as they cannot see the person speaking) and to respond appropriately.
- Circulate and listen to the conversations. Invite pairs who perform well to carry out their conversation in front of the class.

Differentiation

For older/more confident children: Invite children to record their conversations as a play script.

For younger/less confident children: Let an adult take on the role of Granma Mainland, leading the conversation and encouraging appropriate responses.