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3. Telling a story

Objective

To discuss the sequence of events in books.

What you need

Copies of *Handa's Surprise*, interactive activity 'Put it in order'.

What to do

- Explain that stories usually have three main parts – a beginning, middle and end. Discuss what happens in each part of *Handa's Surprise* (beginning – Handa sets off for Akeyo's village; middle – the animals steal the fruit; end – Handa is surprised that the fruit has been replaced. Both girls are happy.).
- Display the interactive activity 'Put it in order'. Ask pairs to discuss the correct order and write the numbers in that order. Discuss ideas as a class and share results.
- Talk to the children about 'twists' – things that make the ending of a story funny or surprising. Ask: *What is the twist in Handa's Surprise?* (Handa is more surprised than Akeyo, so the 'surprise' in the title might not refer to her surprise for Akeyo but the surprise she gets herself.) *Do you know any other stories with twists?* (Examples include *Tadpole's Promise* by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross and *Eat Your Peas* by Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt.)

Differentiation

Support: Ask children to tell you the beginning, middle and end of another book you have read together, or a well-known nursery rhyme or fairy tale, or a film.

Extension: Challenge children to come up with a different middle for *Handa's Surprise*, which would still work with the same beginning and end. They should think about how Handa might lose the original fruit and how she might replace it in their new version.

4. Creating characters

Objective

To punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop.

What you need

Copies of *Handa's Surprise*, photocopiable page 21 'Creating characters'.

Cross-curricular link

Art and design

What to do

- As a class, list what the children know about Handa from the book, both physically and personality-wise. Suggestions could include:
 - She's a young girl.
 - She lives in a village in Africa.
 - She has a good friend, who lives in another village.
 - She is kind and thoughtful because she wants to bring Akeyo a present.
 - She is strong because she can balance a basket on her head.
 - She doesn't mind walking.
 - She has a sense of humour, because she laughs at the end.
- Explain that much can be said about a character through their actions. This is particularly important in picture books, where there are fewer words to describe characters than in longer books.
- Hand out the photocopiable page 'Creating characters' and ask the children to create their own character. They could include details like their name, age, where they live, what they like and dislike and what sort of person they are. Remind them to use a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end of each sentence.

Differentiation

Extension: Some children could write a longer piece of work, connecting the sentences into a proper paragraph.

Creating characters

- Draw a picture of a new character. Then write five sentences to describe them.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____