

## Section 3: Writing

# Project 1: A real life story

### Objective

To experiment with the order of sections and paragraphs to achieve different effects.  
(Year 5 Strand 10)

### What's on the CD-ROM

#### Biography planner

- Use the template to make notes about the life of a particular person.

#### My life story

- Compose a biography using the writing templates.

### What to do

In this activity, children research and write a biographical account of a particular person's life.

- Hand out photocopiable page 38 'Biography research'. Ask the children to choose a biographical subject, note down what they know about that person and think of some questions they would like to research.
- Provide opportunities for the children to research the life story of the person they have chosen. Ask them to make notes of key information on 'Biography planner' on the CD-ROM or photocopiable page 39.
- Hand out photocopiable page 27 'Timeline'. Ask the children to record significant events on and then organise the information into clear paragraphs for writing by dividing the timeline into several sections.
- Open writing template 'My life story: biography' on the CD-ROM. In shared writing, model how to expand one of the children's notes into a biographical life story.
- Ask the children to use the template to write a biographical account based on their research. Remind them to organise their writing into clear paragraphs and to use a range of connectives to link ideas.

# Project 2: Life in the trenches

### Objective

To establish, balance and maintain viewpoint in non-narrative texts.  
(Year 6 Strand 9)

### What's on the CD-ROM

#### Media resources

- Use the 'First World War trenches' photo to generate ideas for a piece of writing in role.

#### Hopes, fears and dreams

- Read the roll over text.
- Record ideas in the thought bubbles.

#### My life story

- Use the writing templates.

### What to do

In this activity, children plan and write a simulated autobiography about a soldier on the front line.

- Look at the image 'First World War trenches' and discuss what the children already know about what life was like for soldiers in the First World War. Watch or read an extract from a film or text that describes conditions in the trenches, such as *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo.
- Use the drama techniques of freeze-framing and thought-tracking to explore what the soldier is thinking and how he is feeling. Use simple prompt questions to guide the children's responses.
- Hand out photocopiable page 40 'Life in the trenches' and ask pairs to note down descriptive words or phrases under each heading.
- Explain that you would like the children to draft and write a simulated autobiography based on the image, in the form of either a diary entry or a letter home to their family. Recall some of the characteristic features of these life-story texts.
- Ask the children to plan ideas using 'Hopes, fears and dreams' on the CD-ROM or photocopiable page 41; and to use their sheets to draft and write a life-story text in the form of a letter or diary entry. (Use 'My life story: a letter' or 'My life story: a diary' on the CD-ROM.)