

# MINI SAGAS

The Adventure Starts Here

## KS3 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1.1C Demonstrating a secure understanding of the conventions of written language, including grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- 1.2B Using inventive approaches to making meaning, taking risks, playing with language and using it to create new effects.
- 1.4C Exploring other's ideas and developing their own.
- 2.3C Generate and harness new ideas and develop them in their writing.
- 2.3F Use imaginative vocabulary and varied linguistic and literary techniques to achieve particular effects.
- 2.3Q Use planning, drafting, editing, proof-reading and self-evaluation to shape and craft their writing for maximum effect.
- 2.3V Signal sentence structure by effective use of the full range of punctuation marks to clarify meaning.
- 4.3A Develop independence in writing.
- 4.3E Evaluate and respond constructively to their own and other's writing.
- 4.3I Write for contexts and purposes beyond the classroom.

### Introduction

Make the Idea Generators\*. Ask your class what their favourite films and / or books are. Write them on the board and from these you should pick an example that all pupils can identify with. Ask pupils how many words they think they could retell the story in if they had to tell it in as few words as possible.

### Main Teaching Activity

Once you have had the pupils' suggestions you can then explain that in today's lesson they will be writing mini sagas, and what the basic rules are. Use an example from the poster to show them. Next ask for suggestions of what the main parts of the story or film are – explain that they need to include character, setting, plot and theme, and ask pupils to identify what these are. When you have all this information, as a class, begin to piece the most important parts of the story together and write them down on the board. At this stage it is likely your class story is over the 50-word mini saga limit. You'll need to help pupils find where they can edit the saga down eg 'it is' can become 'it's' to save a word. When you reach 50 words ask the class to show where the key parts of the mini saga are to illustrate to them that character, setting, plot and theme are included. Hand out the Idea Generators. Ask pupils to write their own mini saga using the Idea Generator or some of the themes on the board.

### Plenary

This is a 5-10 minute activity. Ask the pupils to work in pairs to read their mini saga to their partner. Their partner is to provide feedback; something they like about the mini saga and a suggestion on how it could be improved. The partner can help edit the story down if it exceeds the 50-word limit. To extend the activity to further lessons ask pupils to copy up and illustrate their mini saga; ask them to develop their mini saga into a short story.

### Differentiation

To challenge more able pupils, suggest a word rather than a theme they must base their saga on, and insist their idea is original! Request they include 1 or 2 key technical concepts, such as speech or narration, in their mini saga. Suggest writing their saga with a twist in the ending to provide a further challenge for pupils with a creative flair for writing. For less able pupils suggest key words they must use in their mini saga, or ask them to retell, in their own words, a famous nursery rhyme / fairy story / myth or legend as a mini saga from a different character's point of view.

### Notes

This is a one-hour activity. Alternatively, introductory work can be done in class and the mini saga can be written as homework.

*\*The Idea Generator can be downloaded at [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk).*

# YOUNG WRITERS 2011 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

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## INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

### ENTRY FORMS

- The entry forms provided in this pack may be photocopied. If you require more entry forms you can either return the freepost postcard enclosed, download them from [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk) or call/email us to request more.
- Each envelope of entries you send must have a school entry form enclosed. If you have lost your school entry form please use a sheet of your school's headed paper. You'll also need to include a contact name and the number of entries you are enclosing in each envelope. You can also download both pupil and school entry forms from our website [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk).

#### Home address information

Home address information is requested because our editorial schedule often coincides with school holidays, causing problems with delivery of both copyright information and book orders. Before providing this information however, we recommend that parental consent is obtained. We do accept entries with only school addresses provided.

### ENTRY RULES

- Mini sagas must be completed on the pupil entry form provided
- Only one mini saga per pupil may be submitted - but there is no limit to the number of entries per school
- Mini sagas must be no longer than 50 words
- Mini sagas must be the young writers' own work

Young writers whose work is selected for publication will be notified by letter. Parents of accepted entrants will be asked to sign a copyright form to give permission for publication and to confirm that the mini saga is their child's own work. They will also be invited to purchase copies of the book, but this is not a condition of publication. Copyright will remain with the author at all times. Schools will also receive notification of successful entrants along with any unused work.

### HOW TO ENTER

Put all the entries in an envelope along with a completed school entry form and send to us by **29<sup>th</sup> April 2011**.  
Send to: **Freepost RSLY-AUJA-RAHY, The Adventure Starts Here SS, Young Writers, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 9BF.**

### PRIZES

All schools who participate in the competition by sending in entries will receive a free copy of the anthology that their pupils feature in. If over 100 entries are submitted they will also receive an additional free copy. All participating young writers receive a free bookmark, and those who are selected for publication receive a Certificate of Merit to mark their achievement.

**Prizes are awarded when all books in the series have been published.**

**School Prizes (Awarded nationally):** 1st prize of **£1,000**; 2nd prize of **£500** and 3rd prize of **£250**.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Young Writers' aim is to encourage children to read, write and enjoy creative writing. Our editorial team take a range of criteria into account when reading mini sagas: perception and imagination are given as much importance as expression and technical ability. The age of the young writer is also taken into consideration along with any learning difficulties we are made aware of. The young writer's name, age and school are printed alongside their mini saga.