



HOW TO WRITE A MINI SAGA LESSON PLAN

This lesson plan is a great way to inspire your pupils to write a story, as well as introducing them to a format of short story writing called the mini saga.

PREPARATION

Download the PowerPoint Presentation that complements this activity.

Each pupil needs an Ancient Adventures worksheet/entry form, which you can download from our website.

Go paperless: Alternatively your pupils can type their work for you to submit online using the Online Writing Portal. Create or log in to your account at www.youngwriters.co.uk/teachers

Read through this lesson – each section has a guide to how long it should take, but you can adapt this depending on the needs of your pupils. You can also do the main teaching activity (40 mins) in class and set the writing activity as homework

All competition information and resources can be viewed/downloaded at www.youngwriters.co.uk/writing-resources

INTRODUCTION

Explain to pupils that today they will be writing a mini saga. Explain that a mini saga is a story told in only 100 words!
(Slides 2-4)

MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITY

Activity	Slides	Activity Details
What Is a Story? (10 minutes)	5-7	Give your pupils a couple of minutes to tell you their favourite historical event or story from history. Choose one and ask your pupils, as a class, to tell you in as few words as possible what happens in the event/story. Explain that this is the plot. Now explain what setting, character and events are. Now ask pupils to summarise what happens at the beginning, middle and end of the chosen story and ensure that they understand the structure of a story.
Identifying Key Events (15 minutes)	8-10	Ask pupils if they can now summarise the story in 100 words. As a class, discuss the key points of the story and then make notes on the board. Using the notes work together to write a class mini saga based on the key points the pupils have identified – can they reduce the story's plot to just 100 words? After writing the initial mini saga, you'll probably still have over 100 words, so now you need to edit. Abbreviating words helps, so 'it is' becomes 'it's' and ask them to see if there are any unnecessary words they can remove – you have to be brutal to get down to 100 words! Once you have the class mini saga, read it out. Can pupils suggest any ways to improve the mini saga? Are there stronger words they can use to improve the vocabulary, e.g. 'nice' becomes 'amazing', or add in some punctuation, such as ! or ... to make the mini saga as exciting as possible.
The 5 Ws (15 minutes)	11-14	Hand out the Idea Generators if you aren't providing your pupils with a historic period/figure and give them a couple of minutes to get an idea for their mini saga. Will they retell a famous event with a new twist or create a new story? Ask your pupils to consider the 5 Ws: who, what, where, why and when – this will help them draft a rough plot of their story. Who: Who features in their story – just their main character or anyone else? Advise your pupils not to add too many characters as they only have 100 words to write their story in! Where and When: Where and when is the story set? Which period in history have they chosen – where does the story take place within that time?

MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITY CONTINUED...

Activity	Slides	Activity Details
The 5 Ws Continued...	11-14	<p>What: What happens to their character? Every story needs an event or conflict to move the plot along. Does their character save the day, have a problem or dilemma? Do they cause the problem or help to fix it? What will your pupils choose?</p> <p>Why: Why does the event or conflict happen to their character? Why does their character behave the way they do? Are they in the wrong place at the wrong time? How will they resolve the conflict / dilemma or will they write a cliff-hanger ending...?</p> <p>As they consider the 5Ws they can make notes in the spaces provided on their planning sheet. Show them our examples, should you wish to (slides 14-15).</p>
Composing a Mini Saga (30 minutes)	15	<p>Now pupils have completed their worksheet they are ready to get writing their own historical mini saga. Pupils may want to write their first draft on paper or in a workbook. When they've got their final draft, they can write their mini saga on the worksheet grid. There are 100 boxes so pupils can stick to the 100-word limit.</p> <p>Once they have written their mini saga, pupils need to fill in their name, surname and age on the entry form.</p>
Plenary (5-10 minutes)	16-17	<p>Ask pupils to work in pairs or small groups and to read their mini sagas to one another. Peers are to feedback something they like and something they feel could be improved.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use this time for self-assessment instead; ask your pupils to read back through their work to edit it and ensure their mini saga has a beginning, middle and end. They can review tenses, spelling of places and names, etc. to ensure their work is finished accurately.</p>

NOTES

This activity takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. Alternatively, introductory work can be done in class (40 minutes) and the mini saga can be written as homework.

SUGGESTIONS

Advise your pupils that abbreviating words helps too, e.g. 'it is' becomes 'it's' and ask them to see if there are any unnecessary words they can remove to get to 100 words!

You can extend the activity by asking your pupils to copy up and illustrate their mini saga for display.

You can extend the activity by providing your pupils with more time for both drawing and writing activities.

Your pupils can experiment with narrator types.

Less able pupils can work in pairs or a small group and have an adult's assistance.

Mini sagas can be written on any theme as long as there is a historical element or character!

WE HOPE YOUR PUPILS ENJOY WRITING THEIR ANCIENT ADVENTURES - WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ THEM!

ALL OUR RESOURCES ARE FREE AND CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT www.youngwriters.co.uk/comp/ancient, or you can give us a call or email to request further worksheets are posted to you.