

HOW TO WRITE A MINI SAGA

LESSON PLAN

PREPARATION

- Download the PowerPoint Presentation that complements this activity and bookmark the video.
 - Each pupil needs a Big Green Writing Machine mini saga entry form, which you can download from our website or photocopy
 - **Go paperless:** Alternatively, your pupils can type their work in word, etc or online during a lesson using the Online Writing Portal. To use the portal create or login to your account at www.youngwriters.co.uk/teachers
 - You can add your own success criteria & learning outcomes to slide 4, should you wish to
 - 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 downloaded at www.youngwriters.co.uk/writing-resources*

INTRODUCTION

Explain to your pupils that today they will be writing a mini saga which is a story told in up to 100 words. (Slides 2-5)

MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITY



<p>STEP 1 What is a Story? (10 mins)</p>	<p>Slides 6-10</p>	<p>Watch the video that introduces this activity. Give your pupils a couple of minutes to tell you their favourite story or event 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. Then explain what setting, character and events are. Next, ask your 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.</p>
<p>STEP 2 Identifying Key Events (15 min)</p>	<p>Slides 11-13</p>	<p>Ask your 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 your 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 or descriptions they can remove. Once you have the class mini saga, read it out. Can your 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 exciting to read.</p>
<p>STEP 3 The 5 Ws (15 mins)</p>	<p>Slide 14-15</p>	<p>Give your pupils a couple of minutes to get an idea for their mini saga. Will they write about an animal or season? Will they choose to write from an animal's point of view or perhaps be a superhero saving the world from pollution or encouraging the reader to recycle.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>Where and When: Where and when is the story set?</p> <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>

