



A Planning Sequence for Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit



Literary Theme: Disaster, hope & healing
Mixed Age Theme: Hope & healing

Recommended Age: Y3

Cross-curricular Coverage: History (Y3): the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain; Geography (Y3 Human and physical geography): Physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle

Text(s): Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit

Duration: 3+ weeks, 16 sessions

Outcomes: Setting descriptions, diaries, letters, thought bubbles
Main outcome: Newspaper report

Overview and outcomes: This is a three-week planning sequence for Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit. Children begin by exploring a range of artefacts to try to determine the events that have taken place. They move on to re-enacting an everyday scene from the city of Pompeii before writing a setting description. Children will explore the main characters, including how their feelings change through the story, and will write letters of advice to help save them from the eruption. Through collecting banks of powerful vocabulary, children will write a vivid description of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. In the final part of the sequence, children will become journalists and write a newspaper article to report on the eruption, including quotes from survivors in the town. Teachers may wish to run this sequence alongside learning on Volcanoes or The Romans.

Coverage from National Curriculum 2014: Reading and Writing coverage from Curriculum 2014. Spoken language is covered throughout.

Word Reading

- Apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in English Appendix 1, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet

Writing Transcription (Spelling and Handwriting)

- Use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1)
- Write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far

Reading Comprehension

- Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
- Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally
- Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- Asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- Predicting what might happen from details stated and implied
- Participating in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

- Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions [for example, when, before, after, while, so, because], adverbs [for example, then, next, soon, therefore], or prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in, because of]
- Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material
- Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech
- Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair)
- Fronted adverbials [for example, Later that day, I heard the bad news.]
- Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech

Writing (Composition)

Plan writing by:

- Discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
- Discussing and recording ideas

Draft and write by:

- In narratives, creating settings, characters and plot

Evaluate and edit by:

- Assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements
- Proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences
- Proof-reading for spelling and punctuation errors