CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Narrative writing

Lesson plan		
Learning objectives	To explore the key features and structure of effective narrative writing. To practise characterisation, setting, and plot development.	
Lesson objective	To write the opening of a narrative using appropriate language and structure.	
Vocabulary	Narrative / exposition / conflict / climax / resolution / dialogue.	
Previous learning	None	
Plan		
Activities		**Resources**
Beginning (10 mins)	One-Minute Stories. The objective is to warm up learners' imaginations and introduce core narrative elements. Give learners three random story prompts (e.g., 'The door was locked.', 'There was a voice in the dark.', 'He opened the box.). They must pick one and write a 1-minute story idea including: • A setting • A character • A problem or event Volunteers briefly share their story ideas aloud. Teacher can praise/draw attention to intriguing ideas.	PowerPoint slides.
Middle (45 mins)	**Explicit teaching of narrative (15 minutes)** Discuss the structure of a short narrative:	PowerPoint slides and story arc worksheet.

Lesson plan		
	1. Exposition – lay down setting and introduce character into setting 2. Conflict/event – the problem, tension, or moment of change 3. Climax – the key moment or turning point 4. Resolution – conclusion or subtle ending Emphasise show, don't tell, and how to: • Develop character through action/thoughts • Use dialogue effectively **Planning a narrative (10 minutes)** Provide an exam style narrative prompt (e.g., *"Write a story that begins with someone waking up somewhere unfamiliar." Or "Write a story with the title: 'The Ball'."*) Think/pair/share ideas for a narrative. Learners fill in their individual story arc planner worksheet. Encourage learners to work creatively within the structure). • What is the setting? • Who is the main character? • What event/conflict will occur? • How will the story end or resolve? **Independent Writing (20 minutes)** Learners write the opening of their narrative (1–2 paragraphs). Focus: setting and introducing a character into the setting. Could move on to the conflict and dialogue if time permits. Circulate and provide live feedback on use of description, pacing, and clarity.	
End (5 mins)	Storytelling.	

Lesson plan		
	Reflect on narrative writing strengths and areas for development. Encourage the sharing of creative work. Ask for a few volunteers to read their story opening aloud. Class and/or teacher provides feedback using 'TAG' method: **T**ell us something you liked **A**sk a question about the story **G**ive a suggestion for improvement	
Additional information		
Differentiation	**Assessment**	**H&S: ICT**
Complete the full narrative story based on the prompt. Swap stories with a peer and give written feedback using the TAG method instead of verbal feedback. Reflect in a paragraph: *What narrative techniques did I use and why?*	One-minute stories show creativity and structure understanding – can help teacher to assess prior knowledge. Teacher feedback during independent writing. Peer responses during plenary help build evaluative skills and help learners to develop via feedback for learning.	
Reflection and evaluation		
Reflection: Were the lesson objectives realistic? What did the learners learn today? What was the learning atmosphere like? Did my planned differentiation work well? Did I stick to timings?		

Lesson plan
What changes did I make from my plan and why?
Summary evaluation
What two things went really well? (Consider both teaching and learning.) 1. 2. What two things would have improved the lesson? (Consider both teaching and learning.) 1. 2. What have I learned from this lesson about the class or individuals that will inform my next lesson?

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