

WRITER'S IDEAS AND CRAFT

We are going to look at the different characters in this story. Make a chart like the one below. Make sure you leave plenty of space to write under each name.

Name :	a. Who the character is	b. Description of character	c. Evidence
Mrs O Donnell	Andrew's teacher	she has a sense of humour but is fairly strict	'she looked at him wi a smile oan her face then she gave Andrew homework'

- This column briefly explains who the character is in the story.
- This section says something about him or her. If you can, mention physical details (ie what he / she looks like) as well as personality (ie what sort of person this is)
- Here we find some evidence from the story to explain the comments in (b). You might use a quote (the actual words from the story) to prove what you've said.

The first example, Mrs O Donnell, has been done for you.

Other characters : the moose, the haggis, the shepherd, Andrew, Scott.

Now try to fill in the chart for these other characters.

Andrew's Character

Andrew is the main character in the story so we will look at him in more detail. Below is a list of adjectives. Which of them do you think describes Andrew?

truthful	kind	patient	short-tempered
sense of humour	serious	disobedient	well-behaved
friendly	quick-thinking	deceitful	popular

Give evidence from the story to support your choice of words. Write down your adjectives with your reasons beside them.

Class Discussion

Read out your answers aloud and discuss each others opinion. Have you come to the same decisions? Did you find different evidence?

Imaginative Writing : Short Story

In the story, Andrew invented a tale which was set in his bedroom. Write a story set in your bedroom.

Setting the scene :

Decide whit time o the day it is. It might be late at night an ye're trying tae get tae sleep. The curtains are closed an a wee bit o moonlight is shining through. Whit dae ye hae on yer walls ? Picters o pets or favourite animals ? Or picters o yer favourite pop group ? Fitba players ? Choose yin o these posters tae come tae life. Bit by bit, as ye're trying tae sleep, ye might notice somebodie lookin at ye fae the poster. Who is it ? Whit does he or she say ?

Developing the story :

Whit is gan tae happen during yer adventure ? Is a wild animal gan tae tak ye tae the jungle ? Or the North Pole ? Are ye gan tae play fir yer favourite team ? Of course ye'll score a goal. Will yer favourite pop group invite ye tae a gig wi them ? Ye'll get aw dressed up in fine claes that they bring ye, pit oan lots of make up and set aff fir the concert. Write in Scots or English or a mixter maxter o baith. Ye might jist want tae write the dialogue in yer ain Scots bit keep the narrative in English.

Ending the story :

As a last resort ye could say it wis aw a dream an ye jist wake up at the end. If ye can, try tae be a bit mair imaginative an find anither wey oot o it. Try tae gie a sense o continuity, that ye hiv tae get up fir the scuil or tae gan fir the messages. In ither words, ye hae tae get oan wi yer life. Are ye gan tae tell oniebodie aboot this adventure ? Or dae ye jist fin yersel back in yer bed fair stammygastered aboot whit happent ?

Imaginative Writing : Playscript

We are going to practise writing dialogue in a play.

In a story we have a mixture of:

- a. dialogue: the words people actually say.
- b. narrative: explanations and descriptions.

but a play or dialogue has no narrative at all.

Individual Task

Read page 92 from 'The moose gied a ...' to 'A'll let ye stay'
How many characters are actually speaking in this section?
You should be able to find five speakers. Write down their names.

Now write out each of their speeches as if you were writing a play.

The first speeches would look like this:

Moose: Whit's fur ye'll no gan by ye-A'll soon get a new hoose.

Haggis: A frien in need is a frien indeed

If you want to suggest HOW he speaks then it could look like this:

Haggis: (slurring his words) A frien in need is...
or if you want to suggest an action:-

Haggis: (shaking the moose's paw) A frien in need...

In a dialogue only two people speak.

Using the above format, write a dialogue of your own. You might work with a partner on this task.

Possible situations:

Like Andrew, you might find yourself trying to get rid of folk you don't want to be with. Script a short dialogue where two people are together and one is trying to make the other leave **OR** you haven't done your homework. Write a dialogue between yourself and your teacher in which you make excuses for not doing the homework **OR** make up a situation of your own.

If you want, you might include actions or suggestions about the way the characters speak.
Try to have a realistic ending to your dialogue.

Now read out your dialogues to the rest of the class.

Reading Aloud / Dictionary / Vocabulary Work.

There are three poems mentioned in the story :-

- (i) 'My Hoggie' (ii) 'To a Mouse' and (iii) 'Address to the Haggis'.

They were all written by Robert Burns. Can you recognise the characters from the story in any of the poems ?

Group Task

Collect copies of the poems.

Try to read some verses of the poems aloud to each other in groups. Robert Burns was writing in 18th century Scots.

- Do you find them easy or difficult to read? Is the language very different from your own?
- How much of the Scots vocabulary from the poems is similar to your speech?
- Is it totally different?
- A wee bit similar?
- Very like your own Scots?

In your groups discuss the above points.

List 12 words below you do not recognise and check them in a Scots dictionary.

Word	Meaning
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

Very briefly, try to explain what the poems were about.

Personal Writing

Andrew finds himself in a very awkward situation. He hasnae done his homework and is suddenly put 'on the spot'.

- Have you ever had a very embarrassing moment when you had to think quickly?
- Did you have to do something or say something to 'cover up'?

For example, has your Mum ever caught you doing something you shouldn't have done? **or**, like Andrew, have you ever been at school and something awful has happened?

Write your own story about an experience that really happened to you.

Section one

Where is this story taking place? Explain and describe where you are. Are you a lot younger or did it happen recently? Is there anyone else involved?

Section two

You've built up a picture and a situation in the first paragraphs of section one. Now explain, in detail, exactly what goes wrong. Remember to describe how you **felt**, as well as the events that happened.

Section three

End your piece of personal writing by describing the conclusion to this awful experience.

How did you get out of this situation?

Were you lucky and found an easy way out?

Did you need to talk through everything with somebody or did you get 'a lucky break'?

How did you **feel**, sad, happy, relieved, embarrassed, guilty, full of remorse?