

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR ENTRY

Wicked Young Writer Awards is all about originality and storytelling.

But sometimes the hardest thing is to come up with a really good idea to start your story off! If your students are stuck for an idea, why not use some of these classroom exercises to help your students think up some exciting brand new stories to enter into Wicked Young Writer Awards!

CREATING STORY FROM AN OBJECT

Look at the following images. Each one is a prop from *Wicked*, specially selected by the designers to help tell the story visually. Every object could belong to a thousand characters, and have been on a thousand journeys. Take the object out of the context of *Wicked* for the following exercise.

Discuss each object with the class. Begin by using 1 object as a class example, and ask the class the questions on page 2. They should really use their imaginations for this exercise, imagining that they have just found the object and have to create its story from scratch. Once you have done a class example, students should choose a new object on this page, and ask the questions about that object, writing down their answers. Students should choose one of these objects each, and imagine that it belongs to a brand new character. They should use the questions below to help them. What does the costume tell us about the character?



A SUITCASE



A BROOM



A WAND



A HANDHELD MIRROR



A POINTED HAT



AN ANCIENT BOOK



A PLUSH WHEELCHAIR

- If you were going to describe this new character in 1 word, what word would you use?
- Is it old or new / expensive or cheap / wanted or unwanted / dirty or clean?
- What is it used for?
- Who could it belong to?
- What is that person like? Describe them in as much detail as you can.
- Where does that person live, and where would the object be stored?
- How long has that person owned it, and where did they get it from?
- Did someone else own it previously?
- How old is the object?
- Does it have any hidden secrets inside it, such as a special power, or a hidden compartment?
- If you inspected it closely, what might you see that you can't see at the moment – a mark, a scratch, an engraving..? Where did this come from?
- If the object had a voice what would it say?

TOP TIP! The more detailed they can be in answering these questions the better, it will all feed into their stories and help them with descriptive passages, so do ask follow up questions which demand more description!

Once they have their answers to their questions, they should imagine a story in which the object plays a central role. They should include as much detail and description as possible.

CREATING CHARACTER FROM COSTUME

Each of the characters below is from *Wicked*. But who else would wear clothes like this? Use the questions on the next page to inspire you to write a story based on a character you imagine from the costumes below:

Pupils should choose one costume each from those above and imagine who else it could belong to, answering the following questions to help them. How does the costume help to tell us a story about your new character?



EMERALD CITY COSTUMES (GREEN)



OZDUST BALL COSTUME



SHIZ UNIVERSITY UNIFORM

- Try to describe their personality – are they shy, professional, young...
- Where and when would they wear this specific outfit?
- Where does this person live? Think about both where in the world, and what their house would be like.
- What is their name?
- What do they look like?
- How old are they?
- Are they good or bad?
- Do they have a job? How do they spend their time?
- Are they happy?
- What is their biggest achievement in their life?
- If this person has a secret, what is that secret?
- What would this person keep in their pockets?
- Who is their best friend?
- Do they have any enemies?

Once they have their answers to their questions, they should imagine a story in which this new character plays a central role. They should include as much detail and description as possible.

TOP TIP! You can recreate this exercise in real life in your classroom by bringing in random objects or clothing to kick off the exercise!

Once the students have completed their stories, remember you can enter these to the Wicked Young Writer Awards online or via post for the chance to win some amazing prizes for your students and your school!

www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com