

WORLD  
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DAY

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# WORLD BOOK DAY 2016

## CLASSROOM IDEAS

These ideas for teaching use the **World Book Day £1 books** as their inspiration. You do not need to have the **£1 books** in order to teach this lesson.

### 1 KEY CONCEPT/ FOCUS

To recognise how mood and atmosphere are created in a visual text and how this can be an inspiration for narrative writing.

£1 BOOK which is the inspiration for these ideas:  
*Star Wars: Adventures in Wild Space*  
– *The Escape* by Cavan Scott



### 2 YOU WILL NEED:

- Imagination Channel video clips 'Where do I get my ideas? film 1
- A DVD copy of *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* or a link to the Asteroid Field scene; this can be found on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvJDIc6tEo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvJDIc6tEo)

### 3 IDEAS FOR USING THESE RESOURCES:

- Watch the 'Inspiration 1' video. In this video Cavan Scott and Laura Ellen Anderson both talk about being inspired by film and music.
- Explore what the children already know about *Star Wars*; many may have recently seen the new film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Which characters do they know? What moods are created in the films? How?
- Explore how the director of *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, Irvin Kershner, creates mood and atmosphere in a key scene. This scene is the Asteroid Belt scene where the Millennium Falcon, with Han Solo, Princess Leia Organa, Chewbacca and C-3PO are inside trying to outrun the Super Star Destroyer and the Tie-Fighters through an asteroid field. You may wish to focus on the use of:

- **LIGHT** – Explore the contrast between the darkness of space, and the black, grey, white palette used to portray the action outside in space and the warmer colours used inside the Millennium Falcon. What does this tell us about the characters inside the ship and what they face outside?

- **CAMERA SHOT** – Explore the transitions between wide and close up shots to show the expanse of space, contrasted with the feeling of enclosure in the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon. How does this enhance our sense of the mood inside the Falcon?

- **MUSIC** – The scene opens with The Imperial March, composed by John Williams, one of the most famous examples of leitmotif in film. A leitmotif is a recurring musical theme which is associated with a particular idea, character, place or events. What feelings does the music evoke? You can find the Imperial March at: [www.starwars.wikia.com/wiki/The\\_Imperial\\_March](http://www.starwars.wikia.com/wiki/The_Imperial_March) How does the rest of the music in the scene compare? Talk about the tempo – what does this evoke in terms of the mood? You can find the Asteroid Field composition at: [http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/The\\_Asteroid\\_Field](http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/The_Asteroid_Field)

- **DIALOGUE** – Explore the balance of action and dialogue. What is said, how it is said? What happens in the spaces between the dialogue? What do these spaces allow the reader of this visual text to see and think? How do the dialogue and the way it is delivered give us clues about the character's emotions in the scene?

- Summarise this part of the film, you may wish to do this by storyboarding key parts, as would have happened in planning the scenes in the original film. You can find an example of what this would have looked like at: [www.propstore.com/product-images/516/240147.jpg](http://www.propstore.com/product-images/516/240147.jpg) (You may need to re-watch the clip several times so the action and dialogue are clear in the children's minds).
- Discuss and highlight examples of effective use of language in the text description on the storyboard example, e.g. *The tiny starship banks to miss the giant asteroid as smaller rocks pelt its surface and it roars under camera*. What language helps the director to create the visual scene effectively? What heightens the sense of mood, atmosphere and action?

- How could you use language and sentence structure to create the same sense of mood and atmosphere in writing this scene as a sci-fi adventure narrative? Look at the balance of describing the action through narrative and dialogue as in the film. You may wish to model this for the children through Shared Writing.
- Have the children share the draft of their writing with a response partner, who will read the writing and respond as a reader, giving feedback on how they have effectively created mood and atmosphere or what could be enhanced or developed in a re-draft. If children are not used to this process, you can model this by using a large copy of a child's writing with their prior agreement or by placing the writing under a visualiser.
- Re-draft and edit the writing for publication on a display to present the work to a wider audience, alongside stills from the film and examples of children's storyboards.

#### 4 OTHER IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FORWARD

- You could re-write the same scene in role from the point of view of one of the characters inside the Millennium Falcon. For this, you will need to re-watch the scene, this time focusing the dialogue and actions of each individual character.
- Choose one of the characters; Han Solo, Princess Leia Organa, Chewbacca or C-3PO to focus your attention on as you watch. Draw an outline shape of the character to record your observation on. Around the outside of the character write the things they say and do in the scene and in the inside write how you think they feel as the scene takes place. Do their outside actions mirror their inner feelings or are they portraying themselves differently to others to hide how they really feel?
- Think about how to show this in the writing. Will you incorporate additional thoughts from the character's perspective? To support this you can work in groups of 4 to role play the scene you have just seen. Freeze the action at points to thought track each character in role. What are they thinking at this point? Does it match how they are behaving on the outside?
- Give time for the children to draft the narrative from their chosen character's point of view, share with a response partner and make changes as necessary.
- Share examples from the children who have written as different characters. Compare and contrast what they have been able to show about each character's feelings from the language and devices they have used in their writing.

#### 5 CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

- This activity could link well to the Year 5/6 science curriculum focus on Earth and Space. You may want to conduct additional research into asteroids, finding out how they are formed and the impact they can have on Earth, for example, the theory that the dinosaurs became extinct due to a giant asteroid hitting the Earth. You could also conduct research into the way that ideas about the solar system have developed and information about the sun and planets of our solar system.