

500 Words 2020 Live Lesson

Date: Thursday, 16th January 2020

Time: 11 am

Duration: 40 minutes (approx.)

Location: bbc.co.uk/teach

(Note: if you can't watch the programme live, you will be able to watch the recording on the website within an hour of the live broadcast via BBC iPlayer)

Curriculum Links

The lesson is available for anyone to view and our activity sheets are designed to be used with children of different levels, but some of the higher-level content would be more appropriate for ages 7 and up.

Key Stage 1/ 1st Level – English

As part of the lesson, pupils/students will be encouraged to:

- Write their own stories and narratives
- Write down, plan and consider their ideas

Key Stage 2/1st and 2nd Level – English

As part of the lesson, pupils/students will be encouraged to:

- Think about the audience and purpose of their writing
- Understand, enjoy and create stories

Key Stage 3/3rd Level – English

As part of the lesson, pupils/students will be encouraged to:

- Note and develop initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary
- Identify the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own

Setup

How much space and equipment is needed?

The lesson can be viewed in a classroom with a large screen linked to a reliable broadband connection. Good audio equipment is not essential but will make the event more enjoyable.

As we'll be asking pupils/students to get involved in activities throughout the lesson, it would be beneficial if pupils/students had the accompanying activity sheets to hand to guide them through the activities, as well as stationery such as pens and pencils.

How many pupils/students can participate?

It's completely up to you how many pupils/students you have participating in the session. We want to get as many pupils/students as possible engaged in this Live Lesson. Space might be a consideration if you have a very large group.

How to prepare for the lesson

This Live Lesson marks the 10th year of the 500 Words story writing competition. This year we'll be celebrating all that 500 Words has achieved over the last decade and gathering inspiration from stories that defy time and space by travelling through time.

At the beginning of the show, pupils/students will be asked to think about a story that really inspires their imaginations, whether it's set a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, or millennia into the future. They will be asked to either discuss this story with their teachers or the pupils/students sat next to them. Alternatively, they can write their thoughts down.

Throughout the lesson, pupils/students will be asked to think about new story ideas by remembering three key tips:

- How does your story connect with your reader?
- Who is telling the story?
- How does your story end?

Section 1: Inspired by history

In the first section, we'll be exploring how pupils/students can be inspired by the past when writing stories.

The pupils/students will be introduced to how to create a story inspired by history using the three tips above, and asked to create a story idea inspired by a selection of historical periods on Activity Sheet 1: Inspired by history.

Section 2: Informed by the present

For this section of the Live Lesson, we explore how events in today's world can be great inspiration for a story.

Pupils/students will be given tips on how to develop a story idea inspired by real world events using the three tips above, and asked to create a story idea inspired by some of the past year's biggest news topics using Activity Sheet 2: Informed by the present.

Section 3: Influencing the future

In the final section, we'll be exploring how writers of science fiction have predicted aspects of our modern world.

Pupils/students will be asked to use their imaginations and Activity Sheet 3: Influencing the future to create their vision of what the future would look like.

Contact us

If you're planning on watching the Live Lesson, let us know. Email us with your school name and it could be featured on the Live Lesson.

The lesson will end with a live Q&A session with our guest authors, **Francesca Simon, Frank Cottrell-Boyce** and **Charlie Higson**.

You can email us with your questions before and during the Live Lesson at teach.bbc@bbc.co.uk, or tweet us at @BBC_Teach, using #500WordsLesson. We'll aim to answer as many as possible.

We want to see all of your pupils/students' story ideas and comments, so please send them in before and during the Live Lesson for a chance to be mentioned on the live programme.

*If you are sending in any images or videos that feature children, please ensure that you have parental permission, as they may be shown during the Live Lesson and on our website. Please be aware that the BBC may ask you to demonstrate that you have received verifiable parental consent. **In the email, please confirm your official relationship to the child/children featured, e.g. teacher, Brownie group leader, sports coach etc. and confirm that you have sought prior parental consent.** Please also ensure the material is not sensitive or controversial. Read our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.*