

BBC LEARNING PRESENTS

Comedy Classroom Live Lesson

Date: Thursday, 12th May 2016 Time: 11:00am Duration: 45 minutes Location: bbc.co.uk/livelessons (Note: if you can't watch the webcast live, you will be able to watch the recording on the Live Lessons website)

Setup

How much space and equipment is needed?

The lesson can be screened 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 encouraging students to write their own content, they would benefit from having stationery to hand to allow them to jot down their ideas. We will also be providing printable worksheets to allow them to participate in activities before and during the Live Lesson.

We would love teachers to send in their students' captions, ideas, comments and questions via email and social media, so you might want to conduct your lesson in a computer connected to the Internet to allow you to do so.

How many students can participate?

It's completely up to you how many students you have participating in the session. We want to get as many 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

Before the lesson

The Comedy Classroom Live Lesson ties into a brand new comedy writing competition produced by BBC Learning in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and BBC Comedy. The competition calls upon teachers around the UK to find the funny side of literacy and get their whole class writing comedy.

You don't have to take part in the Live Lesson to enter the competition. It's open to all students in Years 9 and 10 in England and Wales, Years 10 and 11 in Northern Ireland and S3 and S4 in Scotland.

Before the lesson, teachers are encouraged to visit the Comedy Classroom website at **bbc.co.uk/comedyclassroom** to find out more about the competition and explore the teaching resources

The website features a downloadable handbook which provides a series of three flexible 60-minute teaching sequences, including key objectives, literacy outcomes, starters, main activities, plenaries and extension activities. It also contains top tips from comedy industry producers, writers and performers to help students write the funniest routines, sketches and comedy captions that they can.

During the lesson, we'll be referring frequently to the Comedy Toolbox and Comedy Glossary. You might want to familiarise your students with these materials prior to the lesson.

Writing captions

This segment of the Live Lesson introduces students to writing comedic captions. Students will be given tips by comedians on how to create the best laugh-out-loud lines.

Before the Live Lesson, students can print out the worksheet provided on the Live Lesson website. This worksheet contains an image that we'll be asking students to caption during the Live Lesson.

Teachers can send in their students' work to <u>live.lessons@bbc.co.uk</u> or by using the hashtag **#bbclivelessons** for a chance to be featured on the Live Lesson.

Writing stand-up comedy

In this segment of the Live Lesson, we'll be looking more closely at how stand-up comedians go about writing their jokes and routines. Industry experts will be providing key tips on how to create a funny routine using techniques like metaphor, slapstick and sarcasm.

Students can be encouraged to write down their ideas for jokes inspired by these techniques using the worksheet provided on the Live Lesson website.

We hope that students will be inspired by the Live Lesson to convert their ideas into full scripts and a short performance on video for the Comedy Classroom competition. Entry requirements can be found on the Comedy Classroom website at **bbc.co.uk/comedyclassroom**.

Writing a comedy sketch

This section of the Live Lesson examines the techniques used by comedy writers to create a sketch. Students will be encouraged to explore how different comedy writing techniques can create a funny sketch.

They can write down their ideas for funny sketches using the worksheet provided on the Live Lesson website.

We hope that after the Live Lesson students will be inspired to write their own sketch and submit it to the Comedy Classroom competition.

Contact us

You can email any questions or comments before and during the Live Lesson to <u>live.lessons@bbc.co.uk</u>, or by using the hashtag **#bbclivelessons**. We'll aim to answer as many of your questions as possible.

We'd also love to see examples of your students' work. If your classes have created any captions or ideas that you'd like us to feature on the Live Lesson, please do send it in to <u>live.lessons@bbc.co.uk</u>, and they could be showcased on the programme and on our website.

If you let us know if your school is planning to tune in on the day, your school name could also be featured on the programme.

Thank you for your interest in our Comedy Classroom Live Lesson, and we hope you'll join us on the 12th



The Live Lesson will be supporting some of the key generic literacy outcomes of the Comedy Classroom competition:

Speaking:

- Take a role within group discussions.
- Communicate clearly and confidently with an audience.
- Verbally evaluate the work of themselves and others.
- Be able to participate in discussions and presentations.
- Demonstrate they can gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s).
- Be able to discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.

Reading:

- Comment on the differences between spoken and non-spoken text.
- Consider why texts can change to be applied to specific audiences.
- Be able to prepare comedy pieces to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action.
- Demonstrate an ability to recognise different forms of comedy writing.
- Be able to assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggest improvements.

Writing:

- Communicate meaning, adapting their style where necessary.
- Organise their ideas in an easy to understand, coherent way.
- Demonstrate an appropriate level of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Demonstrate they can draft and edit to improve their work as well as critique others'.
- Be able to plan, draft, edit and proofread.
- Be able to use relevant strategies to build vocabulary, grammar and structure.