

The North Wind and the Sun

The Sun is looking down enjoying the sight of the snow-covered Earth and sailing ships at sea when it is disturbed by an icy blast from the Wind, which rips the sails of the sailing ships to tatters.

The Wind boasts about its strength, so the Sun challenges it to a contest - to see which of them is strong enough to take the coat off a young man who is walking through the mountains.

The Wind thinks this will be easy, so blows with all its might, but this only manages to make the man pull his coat more tightly about himself.

When the Sun has its turn, it shines so warmly that the man takes off his coat, and lies down in the sunshine for a sleep.

Sequence of events:

Suggestions for use include: cues for oral storytelling, support for storyboarding, story planning/writing etc.

- Sun watches ships sailing
- North Wind rips up the sails of the ships
- Sun challenges Wind to contest of strength
- Wind tries, unsuccessfully, to blow the winter coat off young man
- By shining warmly, the sun gets the man to remove his coat

Characters: Sun; North Wind; Young Man; Sailors

Theme(s): A gentle approach can be more effective than a forceful one / Pride comes before a fall

Moral: *Don't make empty boasts.*

Understanding, interpreting and responding to texts:

- Why does the Sun want to take its time travelling across the sky?
- Why does the Wind want to blow the ships off course?
- What challenge does the Sun put to the Wind?
- How does the Wind try to get the coat off the young man? Why does it fail?
- How does the Sun try to get the coat off the young man? Why does it succeed?