

## WRITING

**This week you are going to be retelling the story of The Black Hat in a very special way: creating a comic strip!**

**The Black Hat is an imaginative short animated film about a little boy who makes a remarkable discovery!**

(PARENTS: If you have any problems accessing the film, please email me).

### DAY 1: SUMMARISE THE STORY

Watch the film found at:

<https://www.literacyshed.com/blackhat.html>

or at

<https://vimeo.com/45584240>

After you have watched it, watch it one more time and listen carefully to the **narrator**. Write down any words you don't understand. You could use a dictionary or thesaurus to find out their mean (or ask a grown up!)

#### **DAY 1 ACTIVITY:**

I would like you to write a **summary** of the story. Remember what a summary is? Just the main story points – no detail!

- First, say it out loud to either yourself or tell a grown up or sibling. A summary should be only a few sentences and includes hardly any description: you are just saying WHAT HAPPENS in the story. Rehearse saying it aloud a few times. Watch the film again if you can't remember parts.
- Next, you need to write this down using **super sentences**. Remember to include conjunctions (and, but, so, because, for, although etc.) to make your sentences more interesting. Find different ways to start your sentences (don't start each one with 'Then'!) Your paragraph should not be more than 5 or 6 sentences.
- After you have done this, watch the film again and add key story points that you have missed.

### DAY 2: CREATE A STORY MOUNTAIN

Watch the film again. Think about the **main character** of the boy – he is the main character because it is his journey that we follow from the beginning of the story to the end.

Today you are going to create a **story mountain** to track the boy's journey through the story. You should use your summary to help you.

Look at your summary and decide which main story points are your **intro** – **build up** – **dilemma** – **resolution** – **ending**. Remember, the build up is usually the biggest section and contains the most key story points.

### DAY 2 ACTIVITY:

Choose Spicy or Hot story mountain templates to help you. (see [STORY MOUNTAIN TEMPLATES](#) in your home learning pack) You do not need to print these – you could copy them onto a sheet of paper.

If you can, do this on a big piece of paper. You need to have room because we are going to add to our mountain tomorrow!

When you have finished, watch the film again and trace the boys journey over your mountain as you watch. Did you miss anything important? Have you got everything in the right order?

### DAY 3: THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS

Watch the film again. Today I want you to think about the boy's feelings and how they change through the story.

#### DAY 3 ACTIVITY:

As you watch, [write down words to describe how you think he feels](#) e.g. lonely, happy, excited, worried etc. You might need to keep stopping the film as you watch so you can think about it. (the narrator in the film doesn't always tell you how the boy feels, but instead gives you lots of clues in the pictures and the story telling. Therefore, you have to be a bit of detective!)

Next you're going to add those feelings to the story mountain you created yesterday. Make sure you add what the boy feels at the right point on the mountain. You could use the story mountain template ([DAY 3 STORY MOUNTAIN FEELINGS](#)) to help you, which has a feelings word bank to give you some ideas.

### DAY 4 - PLANNING YOUR COMIC

*(I know that some of you will be very keen to get going on your comic strip but you must make sure you **plan** your pictures before you get drawing. We're going to do this bit today!)*

You are now going plan your comic strip, using your story mountain to decide what you are going to draw.

Firstly look at the COMIC STRIP EXAMPLE which tells the story of Little Red Riding Hood. You will see that as well as the pictures, there are 'speech bubbles' to show what each character is saying in the picture and also some 'and' 'think bubbles' to tell the reader what they are thinking (but not saying out loud). You might have noticed that the characters in The Black Hat film do not speak. Instead, the story is [narrated](#) by the voice of a person not in the story. You are going to add [speech](#) and [thoughts](#) for the [characters](#) in your comic strip.

Today, you are going to decide on what you are going to draw in each picture to tell the story of The Black Hat and also decide what to include in speech and think bubbles.

#### DAY 4 ACTIVITY:

Using the template ([COMIC STRIP PLANNING](#)) decide and then write down what you are going to draw in each picture in the first column. (I have included an example – you could use this as a starting point). It is up to you how many pictures you include but try not have somewhere between 6 and 12.

Next to each, picture description, you need to decide what speech and thought bubbles you would like to include for that picture. Not all pictures need to have speech or thought so you could leave some of these blank.

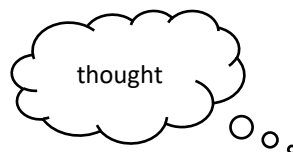
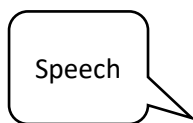
When you have decided on all your pictures, speech and thought bubbles, read through your plan carefully, making sure you haven't missed anything out. Check your story mountain: have you included all the thoughts and feelings you described?

#### DAY 5 – CREATING YOUR COMIC STRIP

Today is the day! Time to create our comic of The Black Hat. You can use one of the templates I have included in the learning pack, or create your own. You need to make sure you have the same number of boxes as your plan.

##### Top tips:

- Draw speech bubbles for speech and thought bubbles for thoughts



- Draw everything in pencil **before** you add colours – including speech and thought bubbles (then you can rub it out if you make a mistake!)
- Make sure you stick to your plan – it's a good one!
- When you have finished drawing your comic strip and writing the speech / thought, you can add lots of colour.
- You do not need to copy the film's animated illustrations. Be imaginative! I would prefer if you re-imagined the boy, the creatures that come out of the hat and the different settings. Your comic strip should not look the same as the film, but come from your imagination.

I would love to see a picture of your finished creations! You can send them to me [janine.bennett@greenway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:janine.bennett@greenway.herts.sch.uk)