English Tasks – Laura's Star

Task 1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60T5VPMbQxs – Read the story Laura's Star with an adult. Discuss the story.

At the beginning of the story it says "**I *wish* I had a friend**," sighed Laura as she gazed out of her bedroom window.

If you had a wish what would you wish for? Who would it help? Who would benefit? Decide on a wish and then share it with someone in your house.

Laura wished for a friend so that she could share her secrets. She had a reason for her wish. What's the reason for your wish?

(Adult) Create a wish and say 'I wish… because…' and tell the children we use the word because to give a reason.

E.g. Miss McGuire's wish: I wish I could fly *because* I would fly to Manchester to see my family to make sure they're okay.

Why have I used a capital I? Discuss that even though it is at the start of a sentence whenever we walk about ourselves we use a capital I.

Now you will write what you would do with a magic wish and use the word 'because' to justify their ideas. Use the star in resources (or make your own!) to write on. You can decorate them after.

Orally rehearse your sentence with an adult.

Remember capital letters, finger spaces, full stop and because.

This task can be done on whiteboards

Task 2

Read the story again – thinking about Laura as a character as you read.

Today you are going to think of lots of different adjectives to describe Laura. Laura is a similar age to you. What do you think she is like? (happy, fair, friendly, kind…)

What do you think she does? What does she look like?

Annotate the picture of Laura (in resources) thinking about the different aspects of Laura (personality, what she does, what she looks like)

e.g. fluffy dressing gown, short brown hair, stripy pyjamas, caring etc.

This task can be done on whiteboards

Task 3

Using the work you did yesterday, you will be writing a character description of Laura. In your character description remember: Capital letters, finger spaces, full stops. Can you also include the coordinating conjunction 'and' and use 'because' to justify your reasoning? Where else might we need a capital letter other than at the beginning of a sentence? (for Laura's name!)

Verbally rehearse what you are going to write first, practising how your sentence should sound before writing it down. Then use 'time to mumble' to go back and re read your work sentence by sentence.

Miss McGuire's example: Laura is quite lonely because at the beginning she wishes she had a friend to share her secrets with. She is kind and caring because she carefully fixes the broken star. Laura wears a fluffy dressing gown and stripy pyjamas because it is night time.

This task can be done on whiteboards

Task 4

Today we are going to think about 'adverbs'.

***What is an Adverb**? An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb within a sentence. For instance, in the sentence 'Laura laughed loudly', 'loudly' is the **adverb** because it describes how Laura laughed.*

There are many adverbs that appear in the book;

'Laura *quickly* put on her dressing gown and slippers…' the adverb 'quickly' tells us how she put on her dressing gown. Why do you think she did it quickly? Look back in the book to help you.

'"Don't worry," Laura told it, as she *gently* carried it back indoors.' the adverb 'gently' tells us how she carried the star. Why was she carrying the star so gently?

Have a look again at the book – are there any more? Mind map some adverbs that describe how you might do something.

Quickly, slowly, hurriedly, excitedly, gently, loudly, quietly etc.

Now use the sheet in resources 'Adverbs' read the sentences and fill in the blanks. Read the sentences out loud first, and try reading it out loud over and over using different adverbs. Which ones make sense? Which don't? When you have found an adverb you're happy with write it in the space. There might be more than one adverb that fits, that's okay! Just choose one to write down.

Task 5

Today you are going to mind map adjectives to describe a star (it doesn't have to be the same as the one in the book!) You'll need this for the next task. What does it look like? What colour is it? What size is it? What sound does it make as it falls?

In the book it says, 'A *streak of silver* came *whirling* and *twisting* through the darkness…'

I imagine a star would be 'whizzing' past my window as it fell. It would be sparkling and gold. What would yours look like? Annotate the picture of the star in resources (or of course draw your own!)

Task 6

Today you are going to write a police report, describing your sighting of the star. Imagine that you are Laura and you have seen the star falling. You are the one who went outside to see it. How would you describe that to someone else? Use the mind map you did in task 5 to help you with adjectives when writing in sentences.

When we are writing adjectives in a list we must use a comma and the conjunction 'and'.

Miss McGuire's sighting: Last night I saw a shiny, sparkling, gold star falling quickly towards me. It was whizzing, twirling **and** spiralling out of control.

Practice saying and writing adjectives in a list first. Clap when there should be a 'comma' or 'and' to separate them.

Use the 'Police Witness' report in resources to write your sighting of the star. Remember to tell them when it happened, what happened, what you saw, a description of the star (using task 5 to help)

Task 7

Today we are going to be writing our own opening for the story. When did this story happen? How could we open our story? Late one night… It was midnight… One stormy night… On a calm and peaceful night…

What was Laura doing? Watching quietly at her window… Staring at the sky above…

What was she wishing for? (you could insert your own magical wish from task 1 into the story!)

Why wasn't she sleeping?

Top tips: Capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, conjunctions, adjectives

Miss McGuire: It was a **calm** and **quiet** night **and** Laura was **quietly** staring at the **big**, **round** moon from her bedroom window. *She was wishing* that she could see her best friend Millie **because** she was missing her **terribly**. Millie had moved schools two weeks ago and Laura still felt very sad about it.

Task 8

Top tips: Capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, conjunctions, adjectives

Now you are going to write about Laura's first sighting of the star. Using your police witness to help with the adjectives. Can we add any other elements in our writing today?

Challenge: another conjunction, adjectives in a list, question mark, exclamation mark (you do not need to use them all!)

How does Laura first see it? Does it whizz past her? Does she catch a glimpse of something moving in the sky? Does she wonder what it is?

Miss McGuire: Laura felt **incredibly** tired **and** was about to go to her bed, **but** she saw something **sparkly** move in the sky. As she looked up to see what it was, she saw a **gold**, **shiny** shape **whizzing**, **twirling and spiralling** towards her. Was that a star she just saw falling past her window**?** She had to go outside and take a look**!**

Task 9

Purple polish – today is editing day. Looking at the work you've done over the past two days. Read through a sentence at a time looking for capital letters. Stand up every time you see one. Are they at the beginning of every sentence? Are they there for a name? Now read it again looking for full stops. Clap every time you see a full stop. How many times did you clap? If it wasn't many – have you forgotten to put one somewhere? If it was a lot – have you added full stops where they shouldn't be?

Now read again looking for interesting adjectives – would you change any of the words you've used? Underline the adjectives you have used in a different colour and write down alternate adjectives on another piece of paper/whiteboard. Do any of them sound better?

Use a purple polishing pen (or another colour if you don't have purple) to make those edits. Adding capital letters where they've been missed, full stops etc. Read your final piece out loud. Making sure there's no missing words and it makes sense!

Miss McGuire: It was a **calm** and ~~quiet~~ **peaceful** night **and** Laura was **quietly** staring at the ~~big~~ **large**, **round** moon from her bedroom window. *She was wishing* that she could see her best friend Millie **because** she was missing her **terribly**. Millie had moved schools two weeks ago and Laura still felt very ~~sad~~ upset about it.

Task 10

Book report. Re read the story for the final time. What did you like about it? What was your favourite part? In resources there is a book report for you to fill in about Laura's Star.