

LESSON 3

U: TO IDENTIFY THE FEATURES OF DISCUSSION TEXTS.

National Curriculum Links

Reading

Understand what they read by:

- identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning

Writing

Pupils should be taught to plan their writing:

- discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
- discussing and recording ideas

STARTER:

Have a selection of different sentence starters on the board. Ask children to pick out which ones they think could be included in a discussion text.

The next day...

Then...

Therefore...

As quick as a flash...

Without a sound...

On the other hand...

Firstly...

That evening...

However...

Later that afternoon...

Suddenly...

Take feedback and discuss with children which ones are appropriate for a discussion text and which are not.

MAIN TEACHING:

Tell the children that before planning and writing their discussion text, they are going to be looking at an example to help them understand what makes a good discussion text.

Hand out the following discussion text and ask them to read it through with a partner, taking it in turns to read it out loud.

Should Friar Laurence have helped Juliet?

Many people would suggest that Friar Laurence should have helped Juliet by giving her the potion, but others would argue that he only made the situation worse. I am going to discuss the arguments on both sides.

On one hand, Friar Laurence had to help Juliet because she had no one else to turn to. Her parents and the Nurse had turned their backs on her. Therefore, Friar Laurence wanted to help her because she was very alone and had no one else to turn to. Also, he had to help her because he said she would kill herself if she had to marry Paris.

On the other hand, Friar Laurence should not have helped Juliet because he had to lie to do so. He is a priest and should not deceive others as this goes against God's law. Also, he gave Juliet a sleeping potion to help her and this was dangerous for her health. For this reason, he should not have helped Juliet.

In conclusion, I believe that Father Laurence should not have helped Juliet. Although he was trying to help, his actions made the situation worse and may have caused Juliet's death.

Ask the children what they notice about the structure of the discussion text. What comes first? How does the discussion text end? Is it written in paragraphs?

Draw out the following structure from the children and record on a flip chart (to add to the working wall at the end of the lesson):

- **Title (question)**
- **Introduction to introduce the issue**
- **Paragraph for**
- **Paragraph against**
- **Conclusion which states the author's opinion**

Now show the children the following success criteria:

- **Third and first person**
- **Paragraphs to organise ideas**
- **Causal conjunctions and adverbials (e.g. therefore, because, since, for this reason)**
- **Sentence starters to link ideas (e.g. on one hand... on the other hand...)**

Ask them to work in pairs to find examples of each success criteria in the example discussion text. They should then record the structure and success criteria of discussion texts in their books.