

Get writing

SECTION

6

Formula 86: the antidote

Objective: To adapt non-narrative forms and styles to write fiction or factual texts including poems.

What you need: Copies of *The Witches*, flipchart, photocopiable page 29, writing materials.

Cross-curricular link: Science.

What to do

- Tell the children that they are going to invent their own recipe for an antidote to the Mouse-Maker Formula that could turn Boy and Bruno back into boys. Ensure that the children understand what an antidote is: a medicine or remedy for counteracting the effects of a poison or disease.
- Organise the class in pairs and hand out photocopiable page 29. Before the children begin, review their work from the lesson 'Formula 86'. Encourage them to analyse the ingredients: mouse tails because it is for mouse metamorphosis; telescopes to make children shrink, and so on.
- Using that recipe as a model, pose some prompt questions to get the children thinking of

ingredients they could use. For example, *What might turn a mouse into a boy?* ('Boyish' things like a toy car or football boots?) *What might make mouse-boys grow bigger again?* (Stirring in a magnifying glass?)

- Share some ideas for the transformation stages. For example, 'First he will feel a tingle. Then his tail will shrivel and his whiskers wither...'
- Give the children time to complete the sheets, then encourage the pairs to share their ideas with the class.

Differentiation

For older/more confident learners: Challenge pairs to expand their description of the transformation process on the other side of the photocopiable sheet.

For younger/less confident learners: Work together to suggest more ideas for ingredients or equipment, or ask more direct question prompts, such as *What could you use to make something grow larger?*

Hotel drama

Objective: To vary the pace and develop the viewpoint through the use of direct and reported speech, portrayal of action, selection of detail.

What you need: Copies of *The Witches*, photocopiable page 30, writing materials.

Cross-curricular link: Citizenship.

What to do

- Read 'The Triumph' as far as *clapping and cheering and laughing like mad*.
- Ask the children to imagine they are a news reporter who was dining at the hotel when the drama occurred. They are going to plan a front-page news story describing what happened and quoting interviews with witnesses.
- Remind the children that the witches

were supposedly at the hotel for an RSPCC convention. Might the reporter see their sudden vanishing as sinister? Might the hotel or its food be under suspicion? How would the journalist describe how the other guests and hotel staff were affected?

- Hand out photocopiable page 30 and give the children time to plan their news reports.

Differentiation

For older/more confident learners: Ask the children to use ICT to begin 'publishing' their front page.

For younger/less confident learners: Ask the children to work in pairs to complete the photocopiable sheets.