

### Activity 3: Story openings

#### Objective

To identify and make notes of the main points of section(s) of text. (Year 3 Strand 7)

#### What to do

This activity encourages children to think about opening paragraphs and how to introduce the issue and characters of a story.

- Provide the children with different opening paragraphs cut out from photocopiable page 27 'Story openings'. Ask volunteers to read them aloud. Discuss what we find out, how the author introduces the main issue of the story (such as bullying or a new school) and who the main character is.
- Find the trigger points that initiate action in the scene (for example, in *Bullies at School*, it is the shouted insult). For each extract, prompt the children to identify the style of writing (such as description, direct speech, a confession) and whether the stories are written in the first or third person. Record their answers in table form on the board under these headings: title of story; issue; trigger point; style; narrative.
- Discuss some possible pathways for the story to follow, encouraging the children to explore different ideas for each. For example, might the storyline be humorous or might it be hard-hitting and emotional?
- As an extension activity, encourage the children to explore the opening paragraphs of more stories, such as *Kamla and Kate* by Jamila Gavin (Mammoth) or *The Diddakoi* by Rumer Godden (Macmillan). Encourage them to use the same headers to create their own tables.

### Activity 4: Work it out!

#### Objective

To develop and refine ideas in writing using planning and problem-solving strategies. (Year 4 Strand 9)

#### What's on the CD-ROM

#### Work it out!

- Type in answers to questions to form a story plan.

#### What to do

In this activity, children choose one of the story scenarios from photocopiable page 26 'What's the problem?' and develop the idea using a scaffolded planner.

- Recap some of the story scenarios from Activity 2, using the prompt cards from photocopiable page 26 'What's the problem?'.
- Ask the children to choose one of the ideas to develop into the outline of a realistic story. Explain that they first need to decide on a main character, a supporting character or confidant (this could be a person, a pet or even a toy), and someone with whom there is a conflict.
- Open 'Work it out!' from the CD-ROM and work through the questions, typing in the children's suggested answers. Reflect on whether the story is going to be humorous and light-hearted, or more hard-hitting and serious. Alternatively, the children could complete this activity on individual whiteboards or using photocopiable page 28.
- As an extension activity, ask the children to use the table template from Activity 3 to consolidate their ideas for the story, deciding on a title, issue, trigger point, style and narrative form.