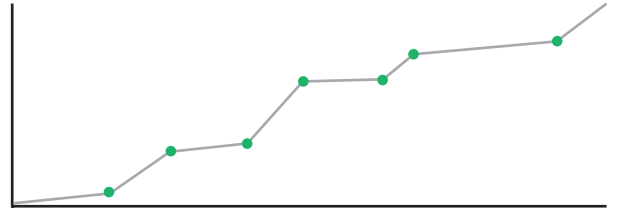


Emotions graph



This activity encourages children to explore the feelings of a character within a strong narrative and to represent these feelings in the form of a graph. By now, the children will have met a wide variety of characters in a range of settings and will have developed favourites. They will feel empathy with some and not with others,

Literature links

This activity will work well with short stories or oral tales, so that in one session, without struggling to remember how the story has developed, children can easily detect the points in the story at which events create change and when the character changes emotional direction. A short but sophisticated story, such as Anthony Browne's *Voices in the Park* or Geraldine McCaughrean's *Beauty and the Beast* (both Picture Corgi) could be used to start children thinking in this way and as a model for other texts. Alternatively, an oral telling of, for example 'The Call of the Sea' (page 88) or the African tale 'Children of Wax' (you might be able to find a version by Alexander McCall

Smith or a film version) would also be appropriate as the children could quickly see how events changed to affect the emotions of main characters.



in the way that experienced readers do, and this engagement will work across media and in and out of school. Children can often, at this age, be heard in the playground discussing characters from television soap operas and very popular books, almost as if they existed in their lives. They predict events, analyse characters and stage-manage their affairs and their lives. Drawing on these experiences, and their understanding of characters and character development, will be useful in a classroom context. The children will discuss their views of characters and articulate their feelings, empathy, or lack of interest in them. This will help the children to use descriptive language and to understand how events in a story impact on a character to effect change in attitude and emotions. It will also support them in understanding the ways in which the relationships between characters can be constructed and manipulated to progress the story.

What to do

- 1 Read or tell your chosen story. Discuss its structure, characters, setting and events, giving the children time to respond to the story. You might want to focus at first on particularly memorable, challenging, frightening or sad moments.
- 2 Examine more closely the emotions evoked by the story, choosing one character as the focus. For example, in 'The Call of the Sea', explore Joseph's or