

It's A Story, Rory!

By Frances Watts & Illustrated by David Legge

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A STORY ABOUT STORIES! 'Hey, Milly, why are we on this blank page?' 'It won't be blank for long. We're going to be in a STORY, Rory!' Rory has never been in a story before and he's not even sure how one works. Luckily, he and his friend Milly have a helpful voice on the page (that's me, the narrator) to guide them on an amazing adventure as they encounter an exciting plot, spectacular settings and some very funny characters. So, open the cover and discover how stories are made with the award-winning creators of Parsley Rabbit's Book about Books.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website, including the full 15 pages of activities.

Themes:

- Literature
- Critical and creative thinking

Discussion Questions & Activities:

Discuss the premise of the story. The author has cleverly used the story as a vehicle to teach the reader about writing interesting and engaging stories.

Guiding Questions:

- Do you think this strategy is effective? Did you enjoy reading this type of story? Could you use this strategy to teach younger students about story writing?
- Dive deeper into the story itself by testing the students' knowledge of the main action of the story. Complete the 3 quiz questions provided. Students can then create their own questions to ask each other about the story.

It's a Story Rory provides a rich opportunity to analyse the construction of a story and the writer's choices.

Guiding Questions:

- Where was the story set? What was the main problem of the story? How did the characters find a solution to their problem? Was there anything about the story you didn't really understand? Did the author leave anything up to your imagination? Did you enjoy the story? Would you recommend it to others? Why/why not?

Activity: Explore the elements of the story in more detail using the graphic organiser provided. (Titled Adventure Story)

The story's characters provide an opportunity for students to explore how authors use language to help us understand the characters.

Guiding questions:

- How did the different characters feel at different parts of the story? Have you felt similar feelings? Could you relate to the characters? Which character is most similar to you? What did the characters learn about dealing with new situations? Did you learn anything about dealing with new situations?

The plot of the story is the sequence of events that make up the story. Each scene in the story involves visual elements as well as description and/or dialogue to help describe these events. This helps guide the action and keep the readers interest.

Guiding questions:

- Do you feel the author could have added anything to the plot to help the reader follow the action of the story? Did the dialogue help the action develop? Was there a good balance of description and action in the story? Look at the images in the story. What perspective do they show? What is the impact of the different visual angles e.g. close up, extreme close up etc? Do you think the action in the story kept the readers interest? Would you change anything about the action of the story?

Activity: Use the storyboard template to note the key action points of the story. Write down the key points of action as well as any dialogue that helped the story evolve.

QUIZ

1

HOW CAN YOU
MAKE READERS
WANT TO TURN
THE PAGE?

2

WHAT IMPORTANT
DISCOVERY DID
THE CHARACTERS
MAKE?

3

WHY WAS THE
DANGER NOT
WHAT THE
CHARACTERS
EXPECTED?

ADVENTURE STORY

COMPLICATION



SETTING



RESOLUTION



CHARACTERS



MY RESPONSE



Shot # 1



Action

The characters are walking through a forest.

Dialogue

Sir Chicken Legs describes the forest as spooky.

Shot

Wide Angle Medium Shot

Shot # 2



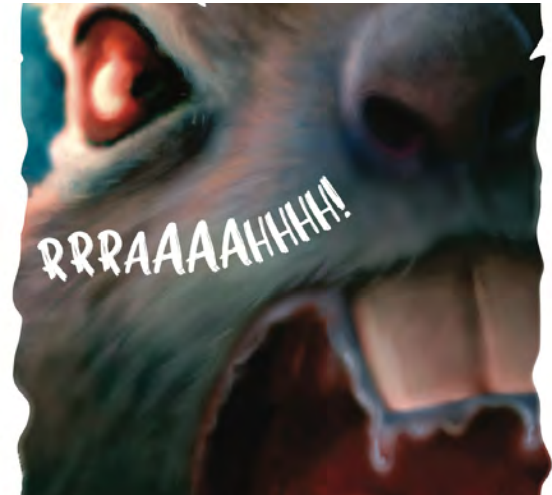
Action

Dialogue

Fx

Close Up

Shot # 3



Action

Dialogue

Fx

Close Up