

PARENT NOTES

English: Spoken Language

Drama: Creating & Sustaining Roles



At A Glance:

- ✓ Spoken Language: Drama
- ✓ Writing (composition) elements
- ✓ Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5-Y6)
- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Practises composition and performance Skills

About this activity

The task links to specific skills in English that will be engaging and relevant to students in upper key stage 2, as it challenges them to compose and perform a drama piece in the form of a news report. Prior to their visit to Blackgang Chine, students will have investigated the conventions of script-writing in class. They will have researched stereotypical features of cowboys and perhaps done a more in-depth study of notorious cowboys in history.

They will be given the task of writing a TV news report about

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Students investigate the conventions of script-writing in class, and research notorious cowboys in history.

They then write a news report about a robbery at Blackgang's Cowboy Town, and will film a re-enactment of the robbery at the park, before editing their news report back at school.



"When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkin'..."

- Old West Proverb

After your child's visit to Blackgang Chine, students will use what they have learned about the features of TV News reports to complete their script (which uses characters such as newsreaders, correspondents, cowboys/girls and a bank teller).

They will then film the final part of the news report back at school and incorporate the filming which they undertook at Blackgang Chine.

Questions & Answers

What is the task?

- ▶ This is a writing and performance task which enables children to practise their planning, writing and performance skills. Students will also use technology to film and edit their work and will develop their skills of collaboration when producing their outcome.

How does this link to my child's learning?

- ▶ Pupils will be writing for a specific purpose and audience; they will practise using formal and informal language which is scene-appropriate. In addition to developing their performance skills, ICT skills will also be extended due to the need to film and edit their final report. They will also use their skills of evaluation when providing feedback to other groups.

What will they learn?

- ▶ They will learn the conventions of script writing.
- ▶ They will understand the structure of TV News reports and how language is used appropriately in the different scenes of the task.
- ▶ They will develop their collaborative skills throughout the making of their report.

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How does this enrich study undertaken in school?

- ▶ This resource enables students to put their writing skills into a real-life context.
- ▶ The task will enable them to practise their writing skills, using appropriate language features.
- ▶ It will also build on students' speaking and listening skills and support their work in ICT.

What do they need to have done in preparation?

- ▶ It is suggested that script-writing skills are studied in class before the visit so that the bank robbery scene can be written prior to arrival at Cowboy Town. This will ensure that students are ready to film when they arrive on-site.

What skills do they need to demonstrate?

- ▶ Writing for a purpose and audience.
- ▶ Performance skills.
- ▶ Choosing language for effect.

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edudest.info

Blackgang Chine: Land of Imagination will help visitors of all ages. This coastal theme park allows the imagination to run wild. Become a pirate, dinosaur expert or cowboy and discover the hidden world of the smugglers!



blackgangchine.com

For further reading about the history of cowboys and cowgirls, wikipedia offers an excellent article.

This would serve as an ideal introduction for learners prior to their visit, and is suitable for ages 7 upwards.



wikipedia.org

What other follow-up tasks are there?

In addition to the task detailed, pupils could also:

- ▶ Carry out a project on cowboys/girls in history
- ▶ Write a story using genre-specific detail
- ▶ Build a scale model of a typical cowboy town.

Is there any scope for future learning at Blackgang Chine?

- ✓ Yes. There are many other subjects and tasks developed for this key stage and for subsequent visits. There is much to be learned here!
- ✓ See our website's venue pages for more great learning options!

