

UKS2 – Lesson Plan 3 – English

Can we turn movement into a powerful story?

Aim: To explore storytelling through physical movement and drama, helping children to use body language and action to build imaginative narratives and deepen their creative writing.	Key Words: • character, setting, sequence, freeze-frame, body language, dialogue, narrator, emotion, expression	Preparation: • Open space for movement (hall or playground) • Large paper and pens for planning scenes • Drama cards with prompts (e.g. “Lost in a storm,” “A mysterious cave,” “The final race”) • Whiteboard or flipchart • Optional: simple props like scarves or cones to mark spaces
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Prior Learning: Children should have experience writing simple narratives and using descriptive language. They may have previously explored freeze-frames or short role-play in drama.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> “Character Walks” Call out different characters (e.g. “an astronaut on the Moon”, “a sneaky villain”, “a scared explorer”), and children must move around the space like that character. Focus on how movement and facial expression help tell the story.	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> 1. Explain that stories are not just told through words – they can also be expressed through movement, actions, and expression. 2. Model how a short scene (e.g. discovering an alien ship) can be acted out with no words, just gestures and actions. 3. Discuss how body language and actions can reflect a character’s feelings or intentions. 4. Introduce the idea of physical storytelling, where children create and perform a short scene in groups.	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Story-in-Motion In small groups, children: • Pick a drama card or create their own short story idea • Plan their scene using a basic structure (beginning, middle, end) • Rehearse using only movement and gesture (no spoken dialogue) • Perform their story to the class, who must guess what the story was about After each performance, reflect on: • What helped make the story clear? • What emotions were shown? • How could it be turned into a written story?	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> Children write a short narrative based on their performance, adding in dialogue and description. Encourage them to reflect on how the movement inspired their writing and made the story come alive.	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Group discussion: • What makes a story exciting or emotional without words? • How did working physically help your ideas? • Could this help you next time you're stuck with writing?	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	Puppet Theatre Create characters from their story using paper or stick puppets. Children can retell their movement-based story through a puppet performance, adding dialogue and narration.
Challenge B	Digital Storyboards Using an iPad or Chrome tool (e.g. Book Creator or Canva), children create a digital storyboard of their performance, adding captions and writing the accompanying story.