



500 Words 2019 – Live Lesson

Date: Thursday, 7th February 2019

Time: 11am

Duration: 40 minutes (approx.)

Location: bbc.com/livelessons

(Note: if you can't watch the programme live, you will be able to watch the recording on the Live Lessons website within half an hour of the live broadcast via BBC iPlayer)

Curriculum links

The lesson is available for anyone to view and our activity sheet is designed to be used with children of different levels, but some of the higher-level content would be more appropriate for ages 7 and up.

Key Stage 1/ 1st Level – English

As part of the lesson, students will be encouraged to:

- Write their own stories and narratives
- Write for different purposes
- Write down, plan and consider their ideas

Key Stage 2/1st and 2nd Level – English

As part of the lesson, students will be encouraged to:

- Think about the audience and purpose of their writing
- Understand, enjoy and create stories
- Create and compare settings, characters, themes and plot
- Use language, dialogue and structure in their writing to engage and influence their readers
- Discuss and plan their ideas for writing before beginning

Key Stage 3/3rd Level – English

As part of the lesson, students will be encouraged to:

- Consider the purpose and audience of their writing and how that affects their choices as a writer
- Plan, draft and edit their stories
- Extend their knowledge of different literary devices and techniques to enhance their writing

Setup

How much space and equipment is needed?

The lesson can be viewed in a classroom with a large screen linked to a reliable broadband connection. Good audio equipment is not essential but will make the event more enjoyable.

As we'll be asking students to get involved in activities throughout the lesson, it would be beneficial if students had the accompanying activity sheet to hand to guide them through the activities, as well as stationery such as pens and pencils.

How many students can participate?

It's completely up to you how many students you have participating in the session. We want to get as many students as possible engaged in this Live Lesson. Space might be a consideration if you have a very large group.

How to prepare for the lesson

Story Sparks:

In this Live Lesson, we'll be challenging our special guests to write a story of approximately 500 Words by the end of the show, with help from schools all around the country.

At the beginning of the show, schools will be asked to email in three Story Sparks, as wild and imaginative as they like, for the following categories. We'll be using these later to help our guests write their story.

- An impassable landscape feature
- An unusual item of clothing
- A useful object

Students can jot down their ideas on the activity sheet in the spaces provided, and you can send these ideas to us by emailing us at live.lessons@bbc.co.uk. Their Story Sparks could be featured on the show!

Section 1: Atmosphere

In the first section of the programme, children will be taught that writing is all about choices, and tasked to help our guests select a genre for the story.

After choosing this, children will be given a word palette that fits in with the genre, and they have to use a selection of these words to help them draft the opening line for their story, using evocative language to describe the setting. These lines can be inspired by their own idea for an impassable landscape, or some of the impassable landscape features sent in by students earlier.

Section 2: Antagonist

For this section of the Live Lesson, we explore the idea of protagonists and antagonists in stories and what obstacles can stand in the way of your protagonist getting what they want.

Students will be asked to help our guests develop an antagonist character, and come up with their own antagonists, with names and catchphrases. Their characters can be inspired by the ideas for unusual clothing that they've come up with at the start of the show.

Section 3: Action

In this section of the Live Lesson, we'll learn all about a story's climax and resolution, and how we can end a story effectively.

Our guests will be tasked with resolving the story with help from the useful objects that students have come up with earlier in the programme.

The students will then be asked to write down some ideas for their ending lines and think of ways to resolve their own stories, writing their ideas down on their activity sheets.

The lesson will end with a reading of the story that the guests have written, with help from students all around the UK. Your students can use the activity sheet as a starter guide to help them write and revise their very own 500 Words story.

Contact us

If you're planning on watching the Live Lesson, let us know. Email us with your school name and it could be featured on the Live Lesson.

Send in any questions or comments on story-writing for our special guest experts, **Frank Cottrell-Boyce** and **Charlie Higson**.

You can email us before and during the Live Lesson at live.lessons@bbc.co.uk, or get in touch by using the hashtag **#bbclivelessons**. We'll aim to answer as many of your questions as possible.

We'd also love to see examples of your students' work. If your classes have created any work or carried out any activities using the resources on our website, please do send it in to live.lessons@bbc.co.uk, and they could be showcased on the programme and on our website.

*If you are sending in any images or videos that feature children, please ensure that you have parental permission, as they may be shown during the Live Lesson and on our website. Please be aware that the BBC may ask you to demonstrate that you have received verifiable parental consent. **In the email, please confirm your official relationship to the child/children featured, e.g. teacher, Brownie group leader, sports coach etc. and confirm that you have sought prior parental consent.** Please also ensure the material is not sensitive or controversial. Read our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.*