

Section 2: Developing writing

Activity 5: Author biography

Objective

To use varied structures to shape and organise text coherently.
(Year 6 Strand 10)

What's on the CD-ROM

Author biography

- Use the planning frame to make notes for an author biography.
- Roll over each heading to reveal further prompts.

What to do

In this activity, the children plan and write a short author biography.

- Read and investigate a selection of author biographies on different publishers' websites. Identify the main purpose of this type of life story. Explore what information is typically included in an author biography, how the information is organised and the style of writing.
- Using the activity 'Author biography' on the CD-ROM, make a shared plan for an author biography of a well-known author using the internet to research facts. In shared writing demonstrate how to expand the notes into a piece of biographical writing which includes a short opening paragraph introducing the author and summarising what they are best known for, and a closing statement.
- Organise the children in small groups to use the internet to research information about the life and work of a favourite author. Ask them to use 'Author biography' on the CD-ROM as a planning frame to make notes, or alternatively hand out photocopiable page 29 'Author biography' for them to use to plan ideas.
- Ask the children to write a short biography of their chosen author by turning the notes in each box into a paragraph with three to four sentences in it. Encourage the children to use a variety of simple and complex sentences, and to maintain an appropriate style throughout.

Activity 6: Curriculum vitae

Objective

To establish, balance and maintain viewpoints in non-narrative writing.
(Year 6 Strand 9)

What's on the CD-ROM

Curriculum vitae

- Roll over headings to view two job advertisements.
- Complete a fictional CV.

What to do

In this activity, the children will develop the skills of autobiographical writing in role by writing a CV.

- Show the class an example of a curriculum vitae (CV). Explain that a CV is a short summary of a person's education, qualifications and employment history which is often requested by an employer when someone is applying for a job.
- Discuss other examples of CVs, commenting on purpose, audience and form. Consider the style of writing (impersonal) and how this effect has been achieved, highlighting appropriate evidence on the text. Point out that a CV does not represent a person's complete life story, only experiences that are relevant to the job they are applying for.
- Open 'Curriculum vitae' on the CD-ROM roll over the headings of the job advertisements to reveal the text. In shared writing, complete the CV in role as a person applying for one of the jobs.
- Ask the children to write their own fictional CV for one of the jobs advertised on 'Curriculum vitae'. Encourage them to maintain an impersonal style by using vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to the form and purpose of the writing. Alternatively, ask the children to complete photocopiable page 30 'Curriculum vitae'.