



Characterization... Writing in Role

This activity provides an interactive framework for students to walk in the shoes of some favourite characters and to feel their motivation for the story action. The writing activity is born in visualization from the perspective of the character.

Exposure to exciting characters will provide students with criteria for creating exciting characters.

Teaching the Activity

1. Begin exploring characterization with literature selections that introduce students to characters with whom they can connect. Some examples are:

A Visitor For Bear by Bonny Becker
Dogfish by Gillian Shields
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems
Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard
I Wanna Iguana by Karen Kaufman Orloff
I Want A Pet by Lauren Child
It's Lovely When You Smile by Sam McBratney
Jumpy Jack & Googily by Meg Rosoff
Mouse Was Mad by Linda Urban
Scaredy Squirrel by Melanie Watt
Something Might Happen by Helen Lester
The Bad Mood by Moritz Petz
The Lonely Moose by John Segal
Too Many Frogs! by Sandy Asher

2. Have students 'think of a time' when they experienced a similar feeling to that of the main character in the story. Structure a talking time with partners to explore feelings and words that accompany their reflection. Sample book titles follow, with a boxed 'think of a time' exploration that matches the theme of the books.

Dogfish by Gillian Shields
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems
I Wanna Iguana by Karen Kaufman Orloff
I Want A Pet by Lauren Child

'Think of a Time' when you wanted something and you were not allowed to have it...or wanted to do something and you were not allowed to do it.
 What happened?
 How did you feel?
 What did you think/say?