



# 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?



# Characterization...

## Writing in Role (cont'd)

### Teaching the Activity

Examples (cont'd):

*A Visitor For Bear* ..... by Bonny Becker  
*The Lonely Moose* ..... by John Segal  
*Too Many Frogs!* ..... by Sandy Asher

'Think of a Time' when you were alone.  
Where were you?  
What happened?  
How did you feel? Was it a situation where you were okay or not okay alone?  
What did you think/say?

*Grumpy Bird* ..... by Jeremy Tankard  
*It's Lovely When You Smile* ..... by Sam McBratney  
*Mouse Was Mad* ..... by Linda Urban  
*The Bad Mood* ..... by Moritz Petz

'Think of a Time' when you were in a grumpy, cranky, or really bad mood.  
Did you just wake-up that way?  
Did something happen to make you cross?  
What happened?  
What did you think/say?

*Jumpy Jack & Googily* ..... by Meg Rosoff  
*Scaredy Squirrel* ..... by Melanie Watt  
*Something Might Happen* ..... by Helen Lester

'Think of a Time' when you were a little bit afraid of something.  
Was it something you saw, or heard, or just felt?  
Were you alone?  
What made you feel less afraid?  
What did you think/say?

- Following the connecting activity, show students a single picture from the selected story and have them infer how the character in the story might be feeling. Elicit inferences from student partnerships.

