

Fantastic Mr Fox Character Traits

Overview

Learning objective

- To be able describe the characters in *Fantastic Mr Fox* using evidence from the text.
- To be able to use alliteration.

Learning outcome

- To create a suitable character name using alliteration.

Book reference

- Post-reading the book.

Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Art, Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education.

Resources

- Pictures from the book.



Starter

- Introduce yourself to the class and give yourself a new name using alliteration. For example: 'My name is Strict Miss Smith!' Write it on the board and underline the 'S' for emphasis.
- Ask each child to think of an alliterative adjective for their name.
- Every child walks around the room and introduces themselves to each other using their new name.
- Selected children share their favourite names with the rest of the class.

Main teaching activity

- Explain that Roald Dahl gives his characters names to suit their personalities.
- In groups, the children look at pictures linked to the story that suggest why Mr Fox is so fantastic.
- The children discuss in groups what the pictures tell us about Mr Fox's personality.

Group or independent activity

- Read the following from chapter 16:

“ Mr Fox and Badger and the Smallest Fox ran across the cellar clutching a gallon jar each. ‘Goodbye, Rat!’ they called out as they disappeared through the hole in the wall. ‘Thanks for the lovely cider!’ ‘Thieves!’ shrieked Rat. ‘Robbers! Bandits! Burglars!’ ‘What an impudent fellow Rat is.’

- And the following from chapter 17:

“ Back in the tunnel they paused so that Mr Fox could brick up the hole in the wall. He was humming to himself as he put the bricks back in place. ‘I can still taste that glorious cider,’ he said. ‘What an impudent fellow Rat is.’ ‘He has bad manners,’ Badger said. ‘All rats have bad manners. I’ve never met a polite rat yet.’ ‘And he drinks too much,’ said Mr Fox, putting the last brick in place.

- Discuss the following question with the class:
 - What sort of character is Rat?
 - What evidence from the text shows his character? (Use sentences such as ‘I think Rat is bold because he says....’)
 - Using a dictionary write down as many words as you can that begin with ‘r’.
 - Give Rat a new name that suits his personality – even better if it alliterates – for example. ‘Rude Rat.’
- Working in pairs or groups, the children:
 - Discuss the character traits of Badger, Mrs Fox, Mole and The Smallest Fox using evidence from the text.
 - Come up with an adjective to describe each character.
 - Even better – make the adjective alliterate with the character's name.

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Plenary

- The children introduce their new named characters to the rest of the class.

Other activities

- Draw a movie poster of your character with their new name.
- Read the poem describing the three farmers who are out to get Mr Fox:

“

Boggis, Bunce and Bean

One fat, one short, one lean.

These horrible crooks

So different in looks

Were none the less equally mean.

- The children work in groups to create a new poem about Mr Fox or any of the other characters.
- This could also be performed to the class as a song.

