

CHAPTER 4 – Children’s literature

Classroom Activities: Top literature teaching activities

Readers theatre

In readers theatre, the children divide up the text to read aloud. They might read the direct speech of a character and have a narrator read the indirect speech. They can read sections, pages or paragraphs in turn. Readers theatre can be practised several times, so the performance is polished or it can be more informal and casual. Sound effects and character masks can be used. Good books for beginning readers theatre include traditional tales such as ‘The Gingerbread Man’ and ‘The Three Little Pigs’.

Draw it

In a ‘Draw it’ session, one child reads or tells a story while the other draws the events that occur. Crayons or markers can be used, and interactive whiteboards can be used instead of paper. These stories are best if they are rehearsed, so the main parts of the story can be illustrated in sequence as the story is being read or told.

Digital apps

Many story creator apps allow children to photograph their own artwork and drop it into a template. Text can then be added, and children can read their story aloud. Simple PowerPoint stories are easy to create with photographs or artwork.

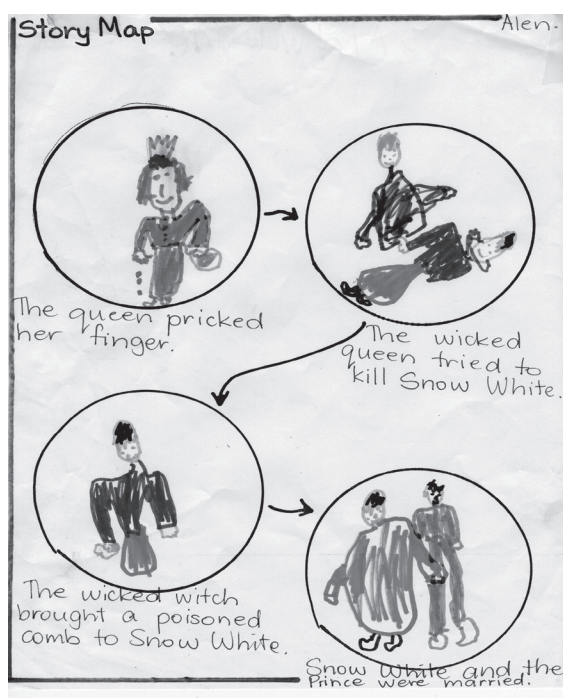
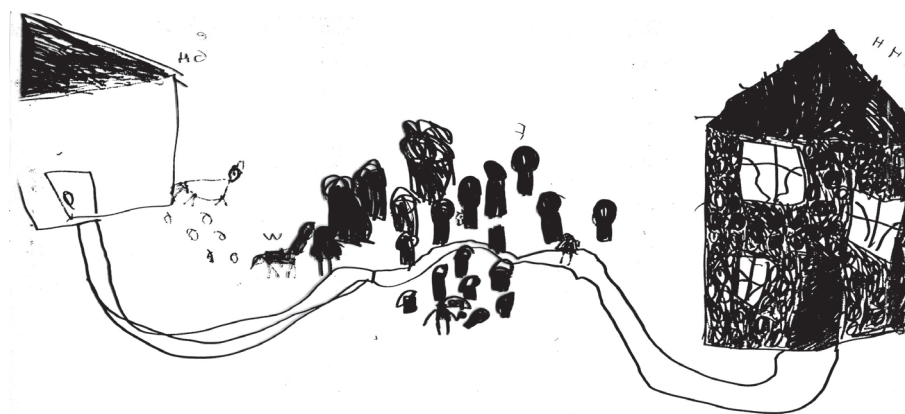
Puppets

Puppets are used in telling and retelling stories. They can be simple cardboard pictures on a stick; for example, when retelling *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* (Bill Martin); or they can be more complex, such as a caterpillar that turns into a butterfly when retelling *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Eric Carle).

Story maps

After listening to a story, children draw the events that occur in sequence. For example, for ‘Little Red Riding Hood’, they might draw Red Riding Hood leaving home, meeting the wolf, going to grandma’s house and finding the wolf, and the wolf running away when the hunter comes.

Figure 4.9 Examples of story maps



Making paper books

There are several kinds of paper books that children can make. Concertina books are made from an A4 sheet folded like a concertina with the events drawn on each section of the folded paper. An A4 sheet can be folded in four and cut to make pages. Small or larger pages can be stapled together and pages can be cut out to make shapes such as circles, triangles or rectangles.

Other books by the author

Finding other books by the author can lead to comparing similarities and differences and to more reading of similar books; for example, try books by Pamela Allen, Mem Fox, Tomi dePaola, Eric Carle and Dr Seuss.