

# Get writing

SECTION

6

## War news

**Objective:** To write non-narrative text types using structures of different text types.

**What you need:** Copies of *War Game*, images of contemporary newspapers (if possible), photocopiable page 28.

**Cross-curricular links:** Citizenship, ICT.

### What to do

- Discuss the range of media we have today: 24-hour news on the internet, mobiles and television through satellite technology. Remind the children that during the First World War people relied on print media such as posters, flyers and newspapers; there was no radio or TV coverage, although there were (silent) cinema films.
- If possible, share images of newspapers of the time and discuss how different the broadsheets look from today's highly illustrated tabloids.
- Return to the idea of propaganda in newspapers of the time. Explain that news coverage would

have been carefully censored to avoid anything that might hinder the war effort (very different from today's reporting – although censorship still exists).

- Tell the children they are going to plan a news report that might be written in today's style about the Christmas Truce. They should imagine they are a reporter sent to the Front, who has witnessed the Truce and the different views on it held by soldiers and officers.
- Hand out photocopiable page 28 and ask the children to fill it in.

### Differentiation

**For older/more confident learners:** Children could work on the computer to create an attractive newspaper page.

**For younger/less confident learners:** Let children work in pairs and share their plans to draft their newspaper report.

## Children of Britain

**Objective:** To choose and combine words, images and other features for particular effects.

**What you need:** Copies of *War Game*, photocopiable page 29.

**Cross-curricular links:** History, art and design.

### What to do

- Remind the children of the work they did for the lesson 'Propaganda!' Tell them they are now going to design their own war poster in the style of those used in the novel.
- Look together at the posters in the book. Recap some of the techniques they use: direct address, family images, appeal to duty or pride or patriotism. Point out the child included in the illustration on the 'Women of Britain Say...' poster.
- Arrange the class into pairs and provide each pair with photocopiable page 29. Tell them

they should use these to plan a poster aimed at children, encouraging them to be patriots during the First World War. Discuss what the poster might convey. (Children encouraging fathers or brothers to fight, raising funds for the war effort, not wasting food, helping their mothers out at home.)

- Allow them time to fill in the sheets and then sketch out their ideas for their poster. Share posters and enjoy favourite ideas.

### Differentiation

**For older/more confident learners:** Let the children use ICT to create a finished poster. They could go on to design another poster, presenting an anti-war message.

**For younger/less confident learners:** Encourage children to share ideas with their classmates so that everyone has enough ideas to create their poster.