

Get writing

SECTION

6

Book review

Objective: To write a book review.

What you need: Photocopiable page 28, copies of *Six Dinner Sid*, paper, writing materials.

What to do

- Tell the children they are going to review *Six Dinner Sid* for younger readers. Discuss what they will need to consider, for example, vocabulary; information for the reader such as length and age range; good and bad points about the book.
- Tell the children that the review should contain just enough information about the characters and the plot to interest the reader, but without revealing so much as to spoil the read.
- Hand out the photocopiable sheet and ask the children to fill in key facts and some of their own

thoughts about the book, which they will then use to plan and write their review.

- When the children have completed the planning sheet, ask them to write their review, using the headings on the sheet as a starting point. Remind them to include a summary saying why they think a younger reader would (or wouldn't) enjoy the book.

Differentiation

For older/more able children: Encourage children to review another animal story, such as *The Patchwork Cat* by Nicola Bayley, *Mog the Forgetful Cat* by Judith Kerr or the *Killer Cat* stories by Anne Fine, and compare the characters and plot with *Six Dinner Sid*.

For younger/less able children: Encourage children to work in pairs to discuss the headings on the sheet, before filling it in.

Sid's sequel

Objective: To write a sequel using known characters and settings.

What you need: Photocopiable page 29, flipchart, writing materials.

What to do

- Establish the children's understanding of what a sequel is. Tell them that they are going to write a sequel to *Six Dinner Sid* about Sid's new life in Pythagoras Place.
- Recall the main characters who will feature in the sequel: the neighbours from Pythagoras Place and Sid.
- Ask the children to suggest ideas of what might happen in Sid's new adventure. Note these ideas on the flipchart and discuss and develop them.
- Ask the children to suggest suitable titles for a sequel, based on their ideas.
- Give out the photocopiable sheet and ask the children to write words and phrases about Sid in the 'main character' box.

- Remind the children that they don't know much about the people in Pythagoras Place except that everyone is friendly. Ask them to put some new ideas for the descriptions of main characters in the box provided on the photocopiable sheet.

- Next, ask the children to complete the rest of the sheet with descriptions of events for their story. Encourage them to refer to the flipchart for help.

- Remind the children that this is a planning sheet and their ideas can be altered and improved as they go along.

- Ask the children to write their story in the form of a small handwritten booklet or using a computer.

Differentiation

For older/more able children: Ask children to discuss their plans with a 'critical friend', working on ideas to improve vocabulary. They could plan illustrations for the story.

For younger/less able children: Allow children to use short sentences and provide sentence starters.