



Main framework objectives

- Year 4:** **Reading, 7.2:** Deduce characters' reasons for behaviour from their actions.
Writing, 9.2: Use settings and characterisation to engage readers' interest.
- Year 5:** **Reading, 7.5:** Explore how writers use language for comic and dramatic effects.
Writing, 11.1: Adapt sentence construction to different text types, purposes and readers.
- Year 6:** **Reading, 7.2:** Understand underlying themes, causes and points of view.
Writing, 10.1: Use varied structures to shape and organise texts coherently.

Reading activities

- ★ When the children have finished the story, talk about why the people who live on the planet are so scared of the Arkies.
Ask: Do you think the people on the planet were right to distrust strangers? How did this make the Arkies feel?
Discuss whether the people on the planet have changed their minds about strangers by the end of the story.
- ★ What do the children think was the most exciting part of the story? Turn to the section of the story they suggest and look at the type of language the author has used (for example, lots of powerful, emotive language is used on page 29).
- ★ What do the children think is the main theme of the story? Lots of different ideas could be suggested (for example, themes might include how we should treat strangers, or the relationships between people and animals).

care to make the text really sound like talking. Then look together at what they have written – can they write out what the characters say in the form of normal direct speech?

- ★ Ask the children to use the planning grids on the CD-ROM to plan another story where the Arkies meet up with Heya and the other horses. What adventures might they have?

Photocopiable pages

- ★ Photocopiable page 19, What do they think?: Reading – Ask the children to think about what the different characters in the book feel and think about the Arkies, and then fill in the speech bubbles with notes to show how each group feels.
- ★ Photocopiable page 20, Write it out!: Writing – Ask the children to read the story frame out loud, before trying to write it down as a paragraph of normal story text.

Writing activities



- ★ Invite the children to choose one of the Arkies Story Starter ideas on the CD-ROM and use it to write their own story either in manga or normal narrative form. They can use the blank layouts and images on the CD-ROM to help with this.
- ★ Encourage the children to use the CD-ROM and choose one or two frames from the Image Bank where characters are talking. They should add speech-bubble text for the characters, taking

