

1. A series of unfortunate events

Objective

To discuss the significance of the title and the events. To discuss the sequence of events in books that are structured in different ways.

What you need

Copies of *Stick Man*, photocopiable page 20 'A series of unfortunate events', scissors, paper, glue, interactive activity 'Ordering Stick Man', copies of *Unfortunately* by Alan Durant (Extension only).

What to do

- Provide photocopiable page 20 'A series of unfortunate events'. Ask the children if they think that 'A series of unfortunate events' might have been a good title for *Stick Man*.
- Ask pairs of children to cut out the individual event cards and to stick them down in the correct order on a piece of paper.
- Next, ask them to draw a happy face or a sad face by each event to indicate whether it is a good or a bad thing that has happened to Stick Man.
- Ask: *Do more good things or bad things happen to Stick Man? (more bad things)* Ask: *Is it a sad book? (Agree that it is happy at the end but it is very sad when he is on the fire and his family is missing him.)* Ask: *Are any of the good things so good that they balance out the book and make it happy?*

Differentiation

Support: Ask children to do interactive activity 'Ordering Stick Man'.

Extension: Help more confident learners to see *Stick Man* as a series of small events. Ask them to read *Unfortunately* by Alan Durant or another book with a similar plot and compare the stories.

2. All because of the dog

Objective

To use subordination (when, if, that, or because) and coordination (or, and, but).

What you need

Photocopiable page 21 'All because of the dog', a bag.

What to do

- Ask the children some quiz questions about the cause of the events of the plot, for example: *How does Stick Man get to the beach? Why is Stick Man on the fire? How does Stick Man get home?* Encourage children to create whole-sentence answers, for example, 'When the nest is empty Stick Man drifts down the river.'
- Write the words 'when', 'that', 'because' and 'but' on the board and explain how these words can be used to tell the reader more information about an event, for example, why it happened.
- Create flashcards from photocopiable page 21 'All because of the dog' and put them in a bag. Ask volunteers to take out a word and make up a sentence about Stick Man using the word, for example:
 - The dog picked up Stick Man because he thought he was a stick.
 - Stick Man woke up when he heard someone shouting.
 - Stick Man started to run home but a girl picked him up.
- Ask the children to carry out the activity on the photocopiable sheet. Share the sentences and point out the extra information introduced.

Differentiation

Support: Provide a scribe for these children and ask them to focus on creating sentences for 'because', 'and' and 'but'.

Extension: Challenge early finishers to write a sentence for 'if'.