

Lesson 3

This session follows on from Lessons 1 and 2. It is mainly discussion based though sets further activities around structuring story.

You will have already have re-written a section of familiar text, introducing a shadow character (Villain). These activities explore the impact of the rewrite on the rest of the original work.

Aims: To develop understanding and appreciation of Genre.
To promote understanding of character and plot choices authors make.

Objectives: Explore how small changes (to an existing text) can alter the whole meaning and style.

Resources: Example text LOVE GOTHIC based on Romeo and Juliet
Tricks and Tips sheet
Work from previous sessions

1. Different genre (10 minutes)

Make a lists of the headings you might find on the fiction shelves of a book shop, library or DVD store.

These lists will almost certainly be of Genre

There's a list of Genre on my Tricks & Tips page. Can you add to it?

2. Genre experts (30 minutes)

Assign a Genre from the list to small groups, aim to get them all covered. Group members prepare a short presentation which clarifies the following about their given genre:

What type of story might you expect?

What type of characters might you expect?

Provide examples of books, plays or films from this genre

Deliver the presentations to the rest of the group

3. Your new story (10 minutes)

Go over the piece of writing you created after the previous session. Try to answer the following questions of your story:

Can you identify the genre that is typical of the villain you introduced?

What is the genre of the original text?

Has your villain changed the genre and if so, how?

4. Where to go from here

(10 minutes)

Everything an author chooses to include in her work, is chosen for a specific purpose. Few elements can be significantly altered without effecting the main story points.

In my example, I introduce a shadow character at a crucial point of the story. My choice of new shadow characters not only changes the genre of both works but also forces the story in a new direction.

Look back over the list of story points you made in lesson 1, (Section 3).

Make brief notes on how your new shadow character would change each of those plot points.

5. Additional activities

a) Plot the new story

Using these notes, create the outline of a new story, using as many of the original characters as possible.

b) Pitching to your publisher

You want to sell your new idea to your publisher. Prepare a two minute pitch. Try to include the following; brief synopsis, genre, style, theme & main character profiles.

Also, prepare questions for the hopeful Authors.

Deliver the pitches and after each one, respond to any questions.

c) Take on the role of an Author of a book you have recently read. Imagine you are trying to sell that book idea to a publisher. Have the rest of the group make ridiculous suggestions. See if the Authors manage to stick to their original vision.

© J. Standerline

with the Bluecoat.

Tickets and Information 0151 702 5324 www.thebluecoat.org.uk School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX