



The Girl Who Blew Up Her Brother and other Naughty Stories for Good Boys and Girls Teacher's Notes

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

Engage with the characters and story

Discuss the moral of the story

Discuss whether the children in the story could have handled conflict in a better way

Discuss the use of humour in stories

Develop short story writing skills – looking at the structure of beginning, middle and end

THE GIRL WHO BLEW UP HER BROTHER

A quiet girl who keeps to herself decides to blow up her brother in retribution for years of torture.

Discussion points

- Do you have brothers and sisters? Do you play tricks on each other? How can you tell the difference between harmless fun, and stepping over the line?
- Do you think Adam was stepping over the line when he was teasing his sister?
- Do you think Janet's payback was too much? Is there another way she could have handled the situation?
- Do you think that Adam was really intended to be mean to Janet? Why do brothers and sisters fight so much?
- Identify the beginning, middle and end of this story. If we didn't have the beginning, do you think the story would have been as good? What if we took out the middle, where Janet experiments with different bomb techniques, and develops the perfect explosion. Would the story be as interesting?

Activity

Once you have identified the beginning middle and end of this story, try and write a new ending for it. Perhaps one in which Janet doesn't blow up her brother.



THE BROTHER'S FANTASTIC FLYING MACHINE

Two brothers who love to explore the tip build their own flying machine.

Discussion points

- Brett and Dave think that their suburb is the best place in the world to live. They have listed some pretty convincing arguments. Do you think you live in the best place in the world? Why? List the best things about living where you do.
- Brett and Dave spend hours making their Flying Machine, but it only takes minutes for it to crash! Do you think they wasted their time making the machine? Or is the point that Brett and Dave enjoyed the time they spent together, no matter the outcome?
- This is a story where brothers get along. Do you get along with your siblings? What's your favourite thing to do with your brother or sister? If you are an only child, what is your favourite thing to do with your best friend?

Activity

Read carefully how Brett and Dave construct their flying machine. Can you draw a blueprint of the machine? Compare it to the illustration in the book. Is your picture the same? One person's idea of how something might look based on a description is often different to another's.

JOHN THE JOKER

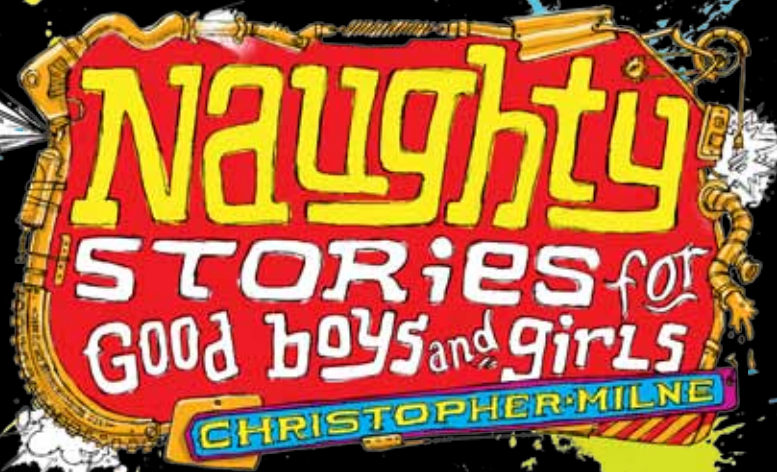
John is a serial jokester, and one day decides to pull off the biggest practical joke of his career. Little does he know that his teacher is about to beat him at his own game!

Discussion points

- This story is funny, but also a little bit scary. Do these elements of the story make you enjoy it more? Are your favourite books funny? Do humorous stories make reading more fun?
- Do you believe in ghosts?

Activity

Try to find a ghost story, and then find out the truth behind it. What are some of the reasons that people think they saw a ghost? What scientific explanations are given for the stories? After you have read both sides of the story do you still believe in ghosts?



THE WORST HOLIDAYS EVER

Belinda is having a horrible school holidays and decides to play a prank on her brother. Her brother pays her back when she has all her friends over for a birthday sleep over.

Discussion points

- Belinda says she is having the worst school holidays ever. What are some things that she could do to improve it? What do you do on your school holidays if you are staying at home? Do you have any hobbies?

Activity

Sometimes it's fun to do things that don't cost any money. Name three activities Belinda could do to stop herself becoming 'bored' and improve her school holidays.

THE GIRL WHO HAD A GO

Belinda's father has always encouraged her to play sport, even though Belinda has never been good at sport, or enjoyed it. Her father always tells her to 'have a go'. But when it comes to bungee jumping, Belinda is able to convince her dad that he is living by double standards!

Discussion points

- How important is it to 'have a go'?
- If you really don't enjoy doing something, should you still 'have a go'?
- Identify the beginning, middle and end of this story. Can you think of another way that Belinda could have convinced her dad that she really didn't need to have a go at every sport?
- At the end of the story, Belinda's mum supports Belinda. Do you think if Belinda had told her how much she hated sport she could have helped talk her dad around?
- Belinda's dad had one rule for his daughter – expecting her to 'have a go', and another rule for himself – that it was OK to not have a go. This is called a 'double standard'. Can you think of any other examples of double standards?

Activity

Get into small groups and act out the story, you'll see that such funny stories translate into very funny plays! Now try and think of another ending for the story.



THE KINDY KID FROM HELL

When a boy is made to 'buddy' Oscar, the Kindy Kid from Hell, on a school excursion, he thinks it's the end of the world. But things are not always what they seem, and he discovers that all Oscar wants is a brother to play with.

Discussion points

- Do you have a buddy system at your school? Would you like it if you were paired with a younger or older kid at school? Do you think it would help you?
- Having an older buddy to look out for you at school can be really nice. And having a younger buddy to look after is also nice. Why do you think teachers have buddy systems at school? Do you think it makes school easier for kids?
- What are the dangers of judging a situation too quickly? Have you ever judged a situation and then found out another side to it?

Activity

Write this story from Oscar's point of view. You could explore what Oscar is feeling when he does the naughty things he does. Keep the story going when Oscar's buddy starts playing with him. How does this make Oscar feel? Do you think he would stop doing naughty things to get attention when someone finally gives it to him?

CHRISTOPHER MILNE'S TIPS TO WRITING SHORT STORIES

Chris has been visiting schools for the last twenty years, and one of the things that children most ask him is how he manages to write such great short stories. Chris has devised five tips to writing short stories.

- Determine the ending of the story before you begin.
- Re-work old stories
- Engage emotions
- Attack from the beginning
- Most stories are deceptively simple