

Process Writing Scheme: *Personal Stories*

Students had read "The Diary of Anne Frank" and we had a whole class discussion about why her story was worth telling. We discussed diaries, first person narratives and dramatic monologues.

In a paired activity, the students had to decide on three criteria that a personal story would need to make it worth sharing or that it would need to have to make it interesting. These were pooled during another whole class discussion and a 'criteria for success' list was created that all the students were happy with.

In groups of three, the girls had to tell their 'story' orally. They loved this bit. Other members of their group could ask questions and draw out additional information. They discovered that they all wanted to know about how the narrator had felt about certain incidents and that seemingly insignificant details were helpful in creating a picture in their mind, for example, what the weather was like on that day. The students had to decide, with the help of their peers, which of their tales was the most interesting and jot down the sequence of events for that story.

The students then mind-mapped their chosen narrative and planned their piece of writing independently. We had previously discussed the purposes and benefits of planning.

Following the planning, they wrote their first draft for homework. The first drafts were shared with a partner during the following lesson. They had to look at the criteria for success and give constructive feedback, annotating the drafts.

We then completed a short redrafting exercise where I gave the students the opening of a story that needed to be improved. I found out later that they found it much easier to re-draft successfully a piece of work that did not belong to them. They did this very well and added similes, metaphors, sensory descriptions etc.

The students were then asked to look back at their drafts with the peer annotations and to re-draft, completing for homework.

The second drafts were again shared with other class members and students were encouraged to give the stories to other friends to read.

Final drafts were completed.

They are to be celebrated by being shared orally with year 6 students. Students will go to a junior school to read to them in small groups. A display will be made following this.

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