

Lesson Plan

Heroes & Villains

PART 1

Character Workshop Teen & Adult Writers

Create great Characters



Who is this Lesson Plan for?

This lesson plan is for teens and adult writers who want to develop their stories by creating more complex characters and action.

The more your characters do, the more interesting your story will be. You'll discover that how someone reacts to what's happening to them will affect what happens in the story.

This lesson will help you develop characters that your readers will love and believe in because they will seem like real people.

Teen & Adult Writers & Teachers



OBJECTIVES

What will the writer learn?

Think about people you know. Everyone has good and bad things about them (traits). Nobody is perfectly good or completely bad. That's what makes us real people.

In this session, you will learn to develop heroes who are not too perfect to be real people; characters that readers will care about.

You will also learn to develop villains to add action and mayhem to your story.

INCLUDED IN YOUR LESSON PLAN

Equipment

A list of materials - all the things you will need to complete this lesson.

Instructions

A *step-by-step* guide on how to use this lesson plan, and have fun writing.

Extension activities

Extra activities in case you don't want the writing fun to end.



INTRODUCTION

A hero is normally the 'good' person in the story - the one everyone remembers because they do good things, show bravery and have other qualities that make people like them.

A villain is normally the 'baddy' in the story. The villain causes problems for the hero or stops them from getting what they want.

When you're writing your story it's important to make it clear to the reader which one of your characters is the hero and which one is the villain.

How to tell Heroes & Villains apart

1. How they look;
2. The way they dress;
3. What they are carrying;
4. How they treat others;
5. How they act;
6. How they talk;
7. Who they hang out with.

Think about a book you read recently. How did the author differentiate between the hero and the villain?

MATERIALS

What the writer will need.

1. A comfortable place to write.
2. Something to write on and with.
3. Photos or drawings of 2 people or animals.
4. Your imagination.

PREPARATION

Warm up exercises

People have different ways of getting ready to write. To get our brains ready for writing we have to flex and stretch it. Here are some things you can do to prepare.

Try looking out the window for a minute and just letting your mind roam free. Write down everything you see, hear, smell, think and feel - like the breeze on your skin.

Next, write down everything you can about one of the people/animals in the drawing or photo you selected for this lesson. The more you write, the more you will free your imagination.

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1 Think of a book you have read recently. Or it could be a book your teacher read in class, or a fairytale.

2 At the top of your page, write the name of the main character in the story. For example, Alex Rider, Bella, Harry Potter.

3 Underneath, write a list of everything you liked about the main character.

These are probably the traits that make the main character the hero.

This can include things like:

- What they do in the story (actions).
- How they treat their friends and family.
- The kind of person they are in the story. Are they brave, loyal, fun to be around...?
- The way they look.
- The way they treat animals/pets.
- The way they act when bad things happen to them.

4 From a magazine, photo album or other source, collect pictures of two people, or use ones you have already selected.

5 Look at your two pictures. Decide which one you think will be the hero in your story and which character will be the villain (baddy).

It can be fun to do this in pairs and do one character each.

6 Place the picture in front of you. Ask your character the following questions:

(The answers will come from your imagination)

1. Where do you live?
2. Who do you live with?
3. How old are you?
4. What do you look like?
5. What are some things you like doing?
6. What's your favourite food?
7. What food do you hate most?
8. Everyone has a secret. What's yours?
9. Who would you tell your secret to?
10. Who is your worst enemy?
11. Why are they your enemy?
12. What's the worst thing that ever happened to you?
13. What's the best thing that ever happened to you?
14. What's your name?

Ask your second character the same questions.

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Now you have two characters you know well - your hero and villain, it's time to put them in a story (see Lesson Plan for Heroes & Villains part 2, *Create a story for your Hero & Villain*)

Areas of Learning

Developing characters

You will learn how to create great characters

Who a character is, how they feel and what they do affects what happens in a story.

Delve deeper into your characters and their purpose in your story. Think about your own personal response to a character.

How can you tell who the hero and villain of the story are?

Why is it important for your hero to have an adversary of some kind?



EXTENSION

If you have interviewed both your characters, now you can think about pitting them against each other.

Think about how your two characters might know each other.

This could be the thing that starts your story (the catalyst).

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do the hero and villain come from the same family?
2. Do they know each other through school or work?
3. Were they always enemies?
4. How did they become enemies?
5. What is the thing they fight about the most?
6. How are your hero and villain alike?
7. How are your hero and villain different from each other?
8. How will the reader be able to tell the difference?



Reflections and/or Assessment tasks

When you made your lists for your heroes and villains you probably noticed that they were different.

Your hero probably had more good traits listed than bad. Your villain probably had more bad traits listed than good.

This is what makes the conflict or the action in your story. It's what makes these two characters fight against each other.

What kind of things make you angry? Make a list of things that could cause conflict or disagreement between two characters.

Tips

When you are making up a new character remember that nobody is all good or all bad.

Do you know somebody you could model your character on? Think about what the person you know is really like.



About *Writing Classes for Kids*

I set up Writing Classes for Kids because I wanted to create affordable classes for kids and teens who love to write.

I also wanted to create a resource for teachers and home schoolers, to be used in the classroom or home.

As a published author and journalist, I'm giving young and new adult writers a guide to crafting stories and non-fiction pieces.

My classes/lesson plans will give kids ideas to get started, ways of structuring, plotting, characterisation and setting.

I'll also provide suggestions for writing tight, being logical, sequencing and other skills that can be applied to essay writing and various text types?

Here's what I write.
More at my website
www.deescribe.com.au



THE LESSON PLANS

There are lesson plans for writers aged 8 to adult.

I'm launching with a **FREE** lesson plan plus the following detailed five lesson plans:

Teen to Adult

1. Heroes & Villains part one - Create great Characters
2. Heroes & Villains part two - Create a story for your Hero & Villain

Writers 8-12

1. Writing For Fun - Picture This
2. Writing For Fun - Pets & Animals
3. Writing For Fun - Old Character, New Story

Future Lesson Plans

Lesson plans on the blog will be updated regularly. Here's a sneak peak at some of the topics to be added as we go:

- Mindmapping
- Plotting
- Writing Anthology Pieces
- Grammar & Tense
- Essay Writing
- Story Pyramids
- Character Collages
- Setting
- Dialogue
- Non fiction beginnings
- Fiction beginnings



My Writing & Teaching Experience

I worked as an advertising copywriter and a journalist before having my first book published in 2008.

I have a Diploma in Professional Writing & Editing, a Diploma in Journalism and a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment.

I have run writing workshops for primary & secondary students and adults throughout Australia with sessions focussing on story ideas, plot, character and setting.

I have worked with school groups to develop student anthologies and can create reading and writing activities to meet a range of curriculum needs.

I love mentoring young writers, and hope that my sessions will help you explore the wonderful world of your imagination.

Dee

If you'd like to see a lesson plan developed on a particular topic for a particular age group, please feel free to email me at: <mailto:Dee@deescribe.com.au>