

Write a creative story about a day in the school kitchen garden

Subject(s): English

Grade(s): 8

Key Stage(s): 3

Learning intention(s)

Students will develop their descriptive and narrative writing skills by crafting a short story that immerses the reader in a day spent in the school kitchen garden, using vivid imagery, sensory language, and character development.

Mapping to curriculum

Scope and Sequence Statement	How it is Addressed in the Activity
<p>Writing and Representing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create personal and imaginative texts for a range of purposes • Use strategies to generate ideas appropriate to the task • Express ideas cohesively and coherently • Enhance relevance, focus and clarity through revision • Use features and conventions of texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students write a creative short story that explores personal or imaginative perspectives in the garden setting. • Students brainstorm characters, settings, and conflicts before drafting their narrative. • Students structure their story with a clear beginning, middle, and end, using paragraphs and logical flow. • Students revise and edit their stories for fluency, spelling, grammar, and descriptive impact. • Students apply narrative conventions such as dialogues, inner thoughts, character development, and setting description.
<p>Reading and Viewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand structures and features of texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students draw on their understanding of narrative structure and descriptive writing techniques to inform their own storytelling.
<p>Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and respond creatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional presentation or sharing of stories aloud allows students to engage interpretively and share emotional connections.
<p>Use of ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inquire and organise texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may choose to draft, edit, or present their stories using digital tools, and optionally create illustrated or graphic versions.

Lesson Instructions

Write a **500–800 word short story** from the perspective of someone experiencing a memorable day in the school kitchen garden. Your story could be written from the viewpoint of:

- A student discovering the joy of gardening for the first time
- A teacher reflecting on the impact of the garden on students
- A plant or insect observing the activities in the garden

Your story should:

1. **Set the scene:** Use descriptive language to bring the garden to life (sights, sounds, smells, textures).
2. **Introduce a conflict or challenge:** Perhaps a plant is struggling, a student faces a personal challenge, or there's an unexpected visitor in the garden.
3. **Develop the plot:** Show how the character interacts with the garden and overcomes the challenge.
4. **Conclude with a Reflection:** End with a lesson learned or a moment of appreciation for nature.

Success Criteria

- Use rich sensory details to create a vivid setting.
- Develop a clear and engaging storyline with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Use dialogue and inner thoughts to reveal character emotions.
- Edit and refine writing for fluency, grammar, and spelling.

Extension Activity

Illustrate a scene from your story or turn it into a short graphic novel excerpt.