

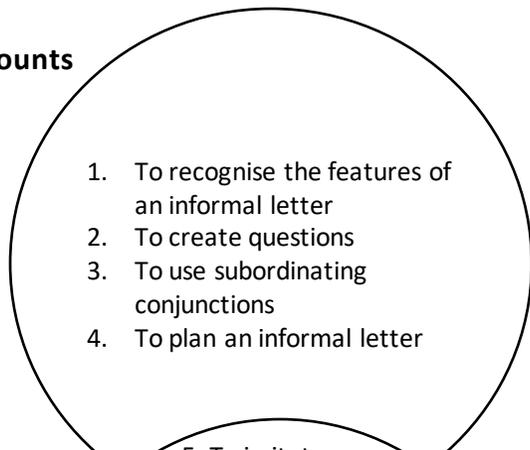
# *The Story Machine*

## Letters and Recounts

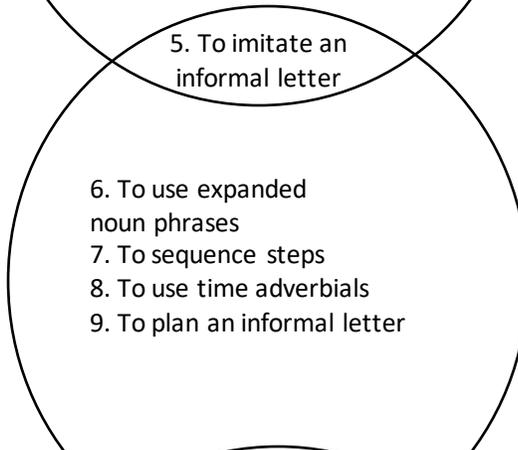
Author Purpose: To communicate thoughts and interest in someone else (through questions)  
To recount what you have done so a friend could follow it

Tier 2 words: informal, favourite, managed, travelling,

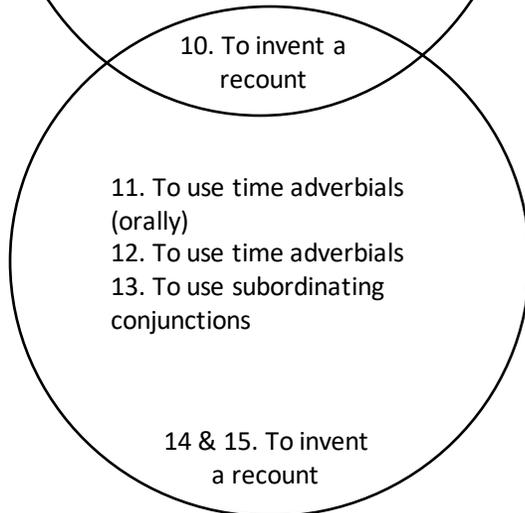
## The Story Machine Non Fiction – Letters & Recounts



SC:  
Know the layout of a letter  
Use questions  
Use subordinating conjunctions



SC:  
Use questions  
Use subordinating conjunctions  
Use time adverbials  
Use expanded noun phrases



SC:  
Use questions  
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Starters throughout the week recapping key conjunctions learnt: if, when, because

1. Wrap up the story Machine with a short letter from Elliott. Re-read the Time Machine. Explain that informal means having a relaxed, friendly, or unofficial style. Learners to review the various letters in pairs to identify the features.
2. Explain that a question is a sentence or phrase used to find out information. Sort examples and non-examples of questions. As a class make questions for Elliott from the text/ image. Children as tables to create questions on the 4 images. Children to orally rehearse some of the questions. Children to write 4-5 questions they would like to ask Elliott.
3. Recap subordinating conjunctions to link two sentences together and the meanings of if, because and when. Practise using these to write sentences about the story e.g. If I found a story machine, I would be excited. (No need for comma but model anyway.) Examples with conjunction in middle or at the beginning of the sentence.
4. Show children how to box up the features and their questions for an informal letter. Children to rehearse their sentences with their learning partner.
5. Write an informal letter to Elliott about his visit to the attic. Follow scaffolded plan to support.
6. Recap expanded noun phrases. Explain that in non-fiction we like to use precise words which tell us about the colour, size, shape or material to make our recount clear. Provide word bank and match words to different materials that the children might use for their time materials the following day. Learners to draw plans for their time machines or use photos of materials and label them using expanded noun phrases.
7. Provide children in pairs with materials to design their own time machine. Children spend 20 minutes making and then talk through steps lots of times using expanded noun phrases from previous day. Provide with sentence starters and verbs for the beginning of sentences to prevent them from not saying whole sentences. (e.g. I stuck the hollow, cardboard tube down.)
8. Recap time adverbials (First, next, after, once) Learners write the steps they took to make their machine in pairs (but both writing in own books) adding in adverbials.
9. Provide planning format for letter with space for questions and thoughts. Recap subordinating conjunctions . Model how you can use them to explain why you did certain steps.
10. Write an informal letter recounting how they made a time machine.
11. Story map the events of den building and retell using the time adverbials. Recap Enquiry properties of materials vocab.
12. Provide time to practise stepping out den building using story map. Write sentences with time adverbials about what happened on the day.
13. Use a mixture of conjunctions to extend sentences from previous day – and, so, but, when, because
14. Write a recount about the den building. Provide word banks for expanded noun phrases.

Letter class receives at start of unit

Dear Year 2,

How are you all? I've had a very unusual few weeks because I found a story machine in my attic. I've drawn some pictures and asked my friend to write down everything that happened in this book.

Let me know what you think about what happened.

I hope you write back soon.

From,

Elliott

SC:

Know the layout of a letter

Use questions

Use subordinating conjunctions

Dear Elliott,

I thought you were so brave for looking for things to find in your dark, scary attic. What was your favourite thing to find? What amazing things you must have found up there! I read with astonishment when I saw you found a story machine. Carefully, I checked the pictures because I had never seen one before. If I found one, I would want to show it to everyone. Did you know what it was when you first found it?

I thought that the pictures in your story were beautiful and they made me feel cheerful. My favourite was the small chameleon because it looked really unusual. Do you have a picture that you love more than the others?

Anyway Elliott, I hope you write back soon.

From,

Pablo

1. Address and date.		3. Thoughts on Elliott going to the attic.		5. Thoughts on the story machine.		6. Second question on the story machine.		8. Third question on the pictures.		10. Sign off.	
1. 6 Filton Avenue Bristol BS7 5T 30th January 2020	2. To Elliott,  Dear Elliott,	3. ----- and -----  ----- attic	4. Do you love . . . ?	5. I was filled with excitement when...	6. Did you feel . . . ?	7. I thought the pictures were -----, ----- and -----.	8. Do you enjoy...?  Do you have a favourite ...?	9. Please . . . .  I look forward . . .	10. From . . .		
		2. Greeting to Elliott.		4. First question to Elliott about the attic.		7. Thoughts on the typing or pictures.		9. Request to Elliott.			

SC:

Use questions

Use subordinating  
conjunctions

Use time adverbials

Use expanded noun phrases

Dear Elliott,

I have something very exciting to tell you.

At the start of this week I made an incredible time machine in class. First, I selected a white box that was a suitable size. Then I covered the top in shiny foil and added a futuristic control panel picture to the side. Next, I made a round time dial because I wanted to go into the future. After that I wrote time machine on the box in bright colourful writing. Then I cut and added toilet roll because I wanted some dials to twist. Afterwards I used milk lids, so I had buttons to push. Next, I made tissue paper into squares before adding even more buttons. Lastly, I made a spiky antenna to pick up signals.

I was really pleased with my time machine and can't wait to start travelling across time. Have you ever made a time machine before? If you can come and visit, I could show you mine.

I hope you write back soon.

From,

Pablo

Planning format

Layout: Date & Dear Elliott

Introduction: Telling Elliott you have exciting news

Steps of making the machine – Why using because e.g. because I wanted to go into the future, because cardboard is strong

Final conclusion: How you felt. A question for Elliott. An If sentence.

SC:

Use conjunctions

Use time adverbials

Use expanded noun phrases

Yesterday, we built a comfortable reading den so that children could have somewhere cosy to read. It was made using tyres and waterproof fabric. First we drew a detailed plan and we designed what it would look like. Then we selected suitable materials because we wanted to make sure it was strong. After that we went into the playground and we worked together to build it. It was quite tricky because the tyres were heavy to lift. The only problem with it was it wasn't very stable. It was wobbling when we sat in it but then Mrs Plummer helped us make it sturdy. When we had finished, I felt so proud of it. I wanted to grab a good book and start reading straight away.

Last week, I made an amazing friend zone in the playground. I wanted to make it so children can find someone to play with. It was quite difficult but we worked together to build it. First we talked about our incredible den and designed it. Next we chose the best materials so we could make it sturdy and waterproof. We decided to use wood and plastic pipes. The wood and plastic was hard to join but Mrs Dallas showed us how to tie it with rope. When we finished, the den looked great. It was strong and it had lots of space in it. I wanted to let all the children in the school use it.

SC:

Use a question

Use subordinating  
conjunctions

Use time adverbials

Use expanded noun phrases

Dear Elliott,

The craziest thing happened to me last week. I got my time machine to work but I ended up travelling back to 2017. **How bizarre the whole adventure was!**

**At the beginning of the day,** I switched on my time machine. **First,** nothing much happened so I was worried it wasn't working. **Then** I was whisked back in time to when I was a toddler. I was sitting in **my tiny, plastic pushchair** and I could no longer talk properly. My mum was feeding me banana puree **because** that used to be my favourite. **Next,** she put me in **a wooden cot** at 1pm for a nap **when** she thought I looked tired. **After that** I wanted to be back to normal so I reached for my time machine. **At last,** I managed to twist **the time-changing dial** and I zoomed back to 2022.

**How strange the trip to the past was! Has anything exciting happened to you?**

I hope you write back soon.

From,

Pablo