
GM Digital Skills Day

Tweet! Tweet!

Telling your story in 140 letters, spaces, numbers and punctuation marks....

OVERVIEW

Have you ever wondered how a journalist manages to squash a story down to no more than 140 characters in one tweet? You may have tried creating a headline for a story before but have you ever told your story in just one Tweet? It's not as easy as it sounds!

Can you guess which fairy tale story the following Tweets are trying to tell?

“Girl endures chores. Invited to ball. Can't go. Godmother helps. Girls arrives. Prince falls in love. Marry. Sisters mad.”

“Boy poor. Plants a bean. Huge plant grows. Boy climbs - steals harp, hen and £. Giant gets angry, falls and dies. Jack and Mum live in palace.”

CHALLENGE 1

- Choose a fairy tale and reduce it down to no more than 140 characters.
- Can you use exactly 140 characters?
- Swap your Tweet with your elbow partner and help them to improve it.
- Read you Tweet out to your class and ask them to work out the fairy tale.

CHALLENGE 2

Your class or school are taking part in the GM Digital day on Friday 7th February. As a digital journalist your task is to find out what is going on at your school and report back to your class teacher.

Whether you're writing a novel or crafting a Tweet, all storytelling shares the same common elements:

1. **Setting:** From a dreary Sunday morning in downtown Manchester, to a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, all stories take place at a specific time and location.

Similarly, explain the setting for your digital news story. What is happening? When is it happening? Where is it happening?

2. **Characters:** Every person in a story serves a purpose. How do the characters support the story?

Who are they? What Year group are they in? What subject are they studying?

3. **Plot:** This is what characters get up to in the setting during the pursuit of a goal.

Who is doing what? Is anyone else helping?

4. **Conflict:** Conflicts are what make life difficult, but stories interesting. They're meant to keep people emotionally invested in the story.

What are pupils learning about digital that they didn't know before?

5. **Arc:** Stories have a beginning, middle, and end.

What does your digital news story tell us from beginning to end?

Your challenge is to:

- Write the story in full getting as much detail as possible.
- Reduce the story to a Tweet including the hashtag #GMDigitalDay (this will use up 13 characters!)
- Check your Tweet with your teacher.
- Send the Tweet to the world using your school Twitter account.

Teacher overview

This task is aimed at Years 4, 5 & 6 and can be adapted to fit around a creative writing session. The session should take about two hours to complete or in two, one-hour sessions.

National curriculum references

English KS2

Writing - composition

Pupils should be taught to:

plan their writing by:

- identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own

draft and write by:

- précising longer passages

evaluate and edit by:

- assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing
- ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing

Computing KS2

Pupils should be taught to:

- select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information
- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact