

# APPLE BOBBING AND DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Take part in the Halloween activity of apple bobbing and write a description of their ideal friend!

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

KS2 Literacy

- composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures
- organising paragraphs around a theme
- in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices
- read their own writing aloud to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear

## RESOURCES

Apple bobbing – 6 x large bowls, 35 apples, 6 x tea towels

Descriptive writing – description sheet, A1 paper for Amazing Adjectives bank

## INTRODUCTION (15 MINS)

*Do this at quite a fast pace. The main point here is that apple bobbing is a traditional game.*

### 🍎 What customs are there at Halloween?

*Try to cover apple bobbing, sticky buns on a string, trick or treating, telling ghost stories, pumpkin carving, toffee apples.*

Isn't amazing to think that some of these customs have been handed down to us today from people in the bronze age. I wonder if apple bobbing is one of them? Back in the bronze age, the only apples you'd find in this country would be wild and sour. It was the Romans who brought sweet apples from Kazakhstan – but you haven't done the Romans yet! Here's a sneak preview. It was the Romans who brought the custom of apple bobbing to this country. Apple trees represented the fruit tree goddess, Pomona.

### 🍎 Why do apple trees produce apples?

*Reinforcing the work done on the role of leaves, stems, bark and trunks – make sure the children know the role of fruit is for the tree to spread itself far and wide.*

### 🍎 Who can tell me how you play apple bobbing?

*Children would put their hands behind their back and try and catch an apple floating in a bowl of water using only their mouths.*

Did you know that some people believed that apple bobbing would help them find the person of their dreams, their ideal friend? They thought if you played apple bobbing and put the apple you caught under your pillow, you would dream of that special person.



## What do you think my ideal friend would be like?

*Model writing a character description.*

- Brainstorm a list of adjectives
- Talk about how you're going to structure the writing into paragraphs - into two different areas
- Model making exciting sentences – say each whole sentence aloud before writing it
- Write a whole paragraph about what they look like. Then write a paragraph about how they behave.

## What would your ideal friend be like?

I want everyone to imagine they have had a dream about their ideal friend. You're going to write a description using some amazing adjectives. By the time people finish reading it, they'll know what your ideal friend looks like and how they behave.

*Get children to practice creating a sentence with their carpet partner and then put their hand up to come up with a good descriptive sentence. Use the A1 piece of paper to record the amazing adjectives they use.*

## WRITING CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS (20 MINS)

*Support the children just as you normally do. **Fast and capable** children should try and write more extended sentences using commas and colons to organise them. They should practice reading them to other people on their table and take feedback on how to improve the writing. They should be encouraged to order their description logically e.g. into what the person looks like and how they behave. **Slow and less able** children should be supported to write some complete sentences using simple adjectives. The focus is on content rather than spelling or punctuation.*

## READING BACK (15 MINS)

Let's take each table in turn and hear everyone's descriptions. Choose your favourite sentence or two to read back to the class. Make sure everyone else can hear what you're saying. I'll add to a bank of amazing adjectives while you're reading.

## What was it like reading aloud to the class? Who could you hear very clearly, and why?

## APPLE BOBBING (10 MINS)

### Would you like to have a go at apple bobbing?

*Put out a bowl with 5 apples for each table, along with a tea towel. Ask the children to take it in turns to bob for an apple. Encourage them to tidy their table with the tea towel. Make sure TA or teacher tips away the bowls of water at the end.*

# MY IDEAL FRIEND

My adjectives

Appearance:

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Character:

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