



Teacher Resource

# Young Author

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Where does Bodie live? Locate on a map.
2. What is Bodie's book about?
3. Why did he want to write a book?
4. If you were to write a book, what would it be about?
5. When you write a story, where do you get your ideas from?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Young Author story as a class. Brainstorm words that relate to books and stories and record responses on a mind map. Here are a few words to get the discussion started:

- Character
- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Author
- Narrative
- Plot
- Themes



Discuss with students what makes a story engaging and compelling. For example:

- genres that you find exciting like adventure or science fiction.
- strong characters
- exciting action
- a surprising plot
- details about a place you've never been.

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#### KEY LEARNING

Students will create their own creative story by developing storylines, characters and settings.

#### CURRICULUM

##### English – Year 4

Create and edit literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings.

##### English – Year 5

Create and edit literary texts, experimenting with figurative language, storylines, characters and settings from texts students have experienced.

##### English – Year 6

Create and edit literary texts that adapt plot structure, characters, settings and/or ideas from texts students have experience, and experiment with literary devices.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Young Author story. Here are some words to get them started.

AUTHOR	ILLUSTRATOR	FICTION
NARRATIVE	PLOT	GENRE

## Activity: How to Build Stories

Students will write their own short story. As a class, make a list of useful tips for story writing. Include tips on how to build character development, plot tension and narrative. The ABC Education's Digibook explains how to build your own stories, using tricks to create exciting characters, plots, settings, genres and language.

[How to build Stories](#)

[Creating Characters](#)

[Understanding Story Plots](#)

[Genre and Setting](#)

[Language](#)



**More resources to help students write stories.**

[Ways to tell stories](#) – Young writers Noa and Francis discuss choices they made when writing their published short stories.

[Thinking about story themes](#) – Noa and Francis talk about the main ideas they chose to explore in their stories.

[Writing from experiences](#) – Learn where student writers Noa and Francis found the ideas for their stories.

[Young authors' creative writing advice](#) – Watch these two students talk about the advice given to them that helps them to write better stories.

[Writing tips from author Andy Griffiths](#) – Watch this video and learn how to write funny stories with tips from author Andy Griffiths.

[Story Starters](#) – Creative Writing Prompts.

## Activity: Visual Storytelling

Visual storytelling and understanding the importance of narrative is key in the making of a successful picture book. Start this activity by asking your students what they think a picture book is and recording their ideas. Discuss the elements and techniques of effective storytelling.

In pairs, students will discuss what their favourite picture book is and why, using these questions to guide the discussion.

- What is your favourite picture book? Why?
- How did the illustrator and author make the story interesting or exciting?
- What did you like about the words and the pictures?
- Could the pictures tell the story without the words?
- What techniques does the illustrator use?

Use these FUSE teacher resources to help guide your students as they [Make a Picture Storybook](#), [Write a Picture Storybook](#), [Illustrate a Picture Storybook](#), and [Create a Storyboard](#).

### [BTN Pitjantjatjara Book story](#)

Meet Kellis, a 17-year-old Mirning, Kokatha and Pitjantjatjara artist who's illustrated a picture book written in Pitjantjatjara.



## Activity: Book Review

Students will choose a book they have read this year and then write their own book review. Students will respond to the following:

- Write a concise description of the plot.
- Who are the main characters in the book?
- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- Include an illustration with your review. It could be a sketch of the front cover or one of the characters from the story.
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your views on the book and asking any questions you have about the book.

## Activity: Choose a Project

Students choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their work to a partner, small group or the class.

### Author Bio

Choose your favourite author and create a biography of them.

### Book Illustrator

[Watch](#) illustrator Terry Denton talk about what he does to improve his illustrating. Have a go at illustrating a story.

### Cover Art

Redesign the front cover of one of your favourite books. Explain why you chose the design.

### Rewrite the ending!

Rewrite the ending of the book. Explain why you chose to end it the way you did.

## Useful Websites

- [WA's Bodie Howland, 9 publishes book about hometown Exmouth to top-up pocket money](#) – ABC News
- [Young Author](#) - BTN
- [Teen Novelist](#) – BTN
- [Writing and Illustrating with Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton](#) – ABC Education
- [How to build stories](#) – ABC Education