Term 3, 2018

Week 5 (14 August –)

Year 3 – 4

Reading and viewing – saying questions that the text answers

At Westgarth, we teach reading and viewing by drawing from explicit teaching strategies developed by Dr John Munro called the High Reliability Literacy Teaching Procedures (HRLTPs). These are research driven and designed to assist students in making meaning from texts. The HRLTPs are:

- Getting knowledge ready
- Vocabulary
- Reading aloud
- Paraphrasing / visualising
- Saying questions the text answers
- Summarising
- Reviewing the text

The action of 'saying questions that the text answers' will be the focus for this week's task and children can use their home reading text. To encourage this focus, listen to your child read aloud and ask them throughout "*what question/s does this answer for us?*" This procedure will focus their attention on analysing the ideas in the sentence in terms of its purpose and to link the sentence with what they know. It extends their comprehension of the sentence and encourages them to be active as readers.

Task

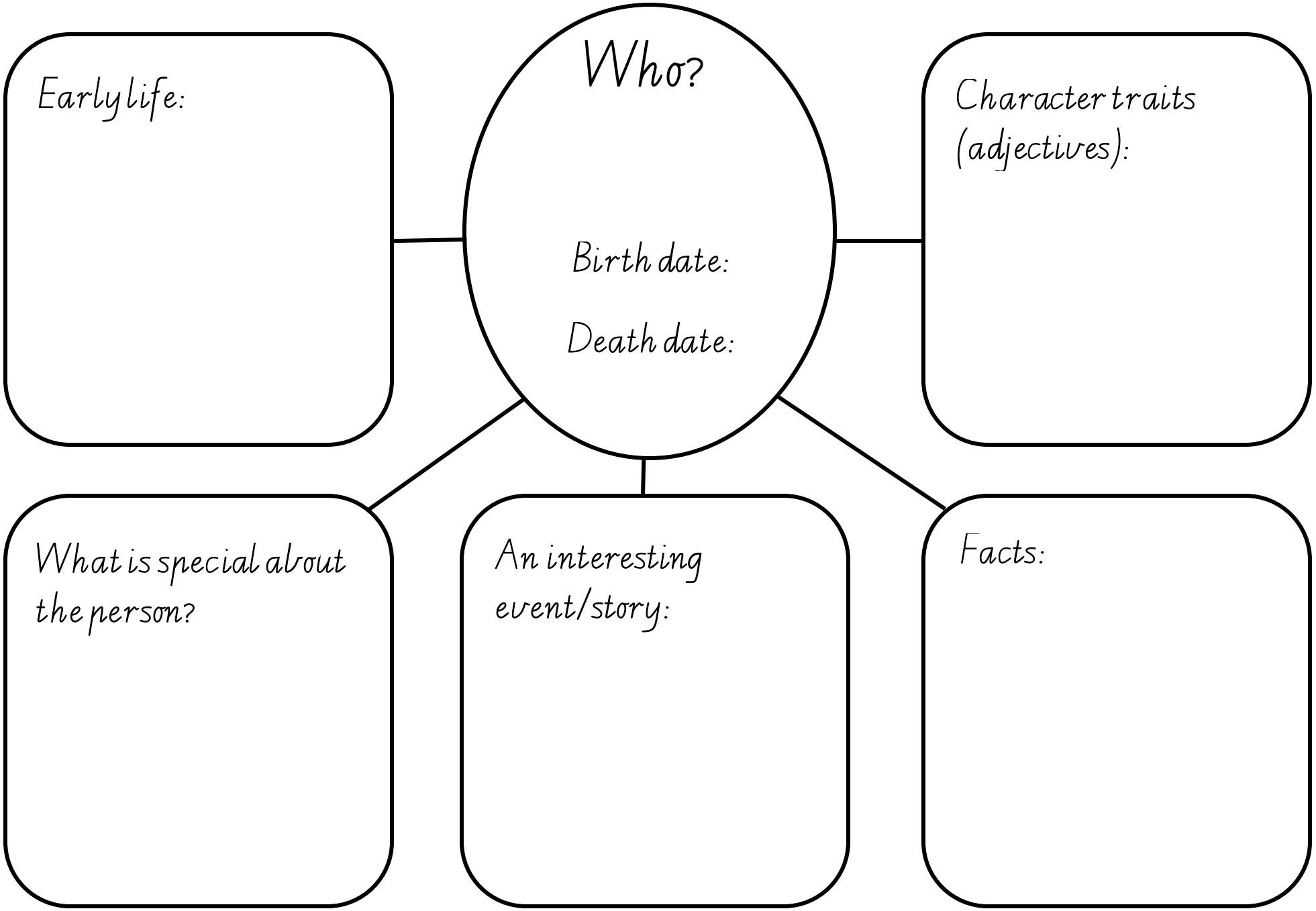
As your child reads to you, prompt them to jot down the questions that the text answers. Sticky notes are a great resource for this as your child will be able to organise their ideas and questions later on. Remember that these questions need to come from the text, not your child's prior knowledge. The goal is for them to create a quiz that captures these questions and answers. The quiz can then be recorded on cards, or even as a PowerPoint or Keynote.

For extension, you could encourage your child to read passages to other family members and then support them to host trivia using their questions. They are sure to relish the opportunity catch other family members out with their tricky questions!

Writing – write a biography

Biographies are quite a new genre of writing for year 3 and 4 students. For this week's writing task, your child is to plan and compose a short text to capture the life of someone that they are interested in, whether it be a family member or someone that they have read about.

Firstly they will need to research their information. Although your child has written information reports and recounts before, this text type will require them to think and write quite differently. Mind mapping their ideas as a plan is useful, alternatively they may wish to use the text organiser on the following page.


Who?
Birth date:
Death date:
Early life:
Character traits (adjectives):
What is special about the person?
An interesting event/story:
Facts:

There is also opportunity here to connect the text with their unit of inquiry focussed on Australia's first peoples. Researching and capturing the story of an indigenous Australian would be an ideal way to extend their learning in this area.

Mathematics – automaticity of multiplication facts

The Victorian Curriculum states that students are expected to be able to recall multiplication facts up to 10 × 10 (and related division facts) by the end of level 4. There are many games, resources and iOS apps available to assist students in this area. Using dice, playing cards or dominoes to generate random numbers to multiply is an easy way to revise multiplication facts. If your child experiences difficulty multiplying by a particular number (7 is quite difficult to learn!), then scaffold the task so that this number is always included.

The Maths Dictionary for Kids website is a great resource for understanding the mathematical language of multiplication. Our very own Donald Eddington's DEtv channel on YouTube is also useful for revising extended notation of multiplication for those children who already have automaticity of multiplication facts.

It would be beneficial to discover what single-digit numbers that your child experiences difficulty in skip counting by (if any). Multiplication facts from the 2s, 5s and 10s are the easiest to learn due to the obvious number patterns. Calculating football scores can also be useful in providing context for children to count by 6s.

There are a number of iPad apps that I recommend that require children to revise their recollection of multiplication facts. Keep in mind that these do not teach the strategies, they just generate random problems for your child to answer.

Sushi Monster

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/sushi-monster/id512651258?mt=8

Squeebles Math Bingo

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/squeebles-maths-bingo/id580882257?mt=8

Operation Math

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/operation-math/id487387270?mt=8