

# **Year 6 - Summer 1 - Week 5**

**Lesson 1 - Children of Lir**

**Lesson 2 – Children of Lir**

**Lesson 3 – Beowulf**

**Lesson 4 – Beowulf**

**Lesson 5 – Write own adventure narrative or story.**



# Lesson 1

## Children of Lir

Read the following story and then follow the writing task instructions...

[illegible]

# Children of Lir – part 1

Many years ago on in the Irish region of County Armagh, there lived a handsome young man named Lir and his beautiful wife, Aobh. For many years they lived in peaceful tranquillity and became parents to three sons and a daughter: Aodh, Fionnghuala, Fiachra and Conn. Alas, life and stories are never that simple and, when the children were still young, their mother became gravely ill and passed away.

Sadness stifled their home and cast a shadow over their life for a long time until, whilst carrying out errands in the local market, their father bumped into a kindly woman named Aoife. They soon fell deeply in love and were married within the year. Villagers for miles around came out to celebrate the wedding; Lir was such a generous and welcoming man that they felt he deserved a second chance at happiness.

# Children of Lir – part 1



Lir's four children embraced Aoife as their mother and welcomed her into their home but, despite loving his new wife very dearly, Lir was determined that his love for his children would always come first. Over time, Aoife grew resentful of this affection and yearned to be the centre of her husband's world. She knew that this would never come to pass whilst his children still lived, yet she didn't have the heart or courage to kill them. Instead, she hatched a cunning plan.

One night, whilst Lir slept peacefully, Aoife woke the children and hurried them out of the house. Pretending that they were going to the market to buy their father a present for his birthday, she bundled them into a passing cart. They rode tirelessly until dawn, and the wicked step-mother only stopped the carriage when they were beside a cold, heartless lake. Lake Derravarragh looked bleak and leaden in the low morning light; the four children shivered despite the warm, spring air. Aodh was the eldest of the children, and he quickly fell to his knees and begged their step-mother to return them home: "Our father will worry terribly if we aren't there when he wakes," he pleaded desperately.



## Children of Lir – part 2

His words fell on deaf ears, and Aoife muttered a series of strange words under her breath. A flash of light engulfed them all and, when it passed, the four children had been turned into swans. Honking hysterically, they fled their captor and settled in the middle of the lake.



For the next four hundred years, the children of Lir lived miserably on that bleak lake, unable to speak to each other or to find their beloved father. Their grief was profound; not only had they lost their mother, but now their father had been cruelly taken away as well. Even worse, they knew just how much he would be heartbroken at the loss of his children. Eventually, Lir's children realised that they must move on and so they travelled from lake to lake, spending the next three hundred years in exile before finally returning home to the village where they were born.



## Children of Lir – part 2

Though so many years had passed, they were still saddened to learn that their father had passed away and their village - once thriving with markets and shops - had turned to dust.

Upon entering the old market square, they happened upon a missionary who treated them with great kindness and promised to lift their curse.



When at last their enchantment was lifted, they found that they were now old and weak. As a last act of kindness, the missionary baptised the siblings, and they were able to rest in peace.

# Children of Lir

1. Explain how Aoife's character changes over the story.

A solid red rectangular box intended for the student's answer to the first question.

2. Explain how Lir's children felt about Aoife and how you know.

A solid yellow rectangular box intended for the student's answer to the second question.

3. What was Aoife's cunning plan?

A solid yellow rectangular box intended for the student's answer to the third question.

# Adaptation - Children of Lir

## Task

Once you have read the story and understood what is going on:  
**re-write part 2, thus changing the ending.**

How and what could you change in part 2? Try and write at least a page and a half. Remember to use all your conventions of writing...



# Lesson 2

## Children of Lir

Finish writing your story ending and then follow the editing task...

Finish writing your story ending and then follow the editing task...

What other items can you improve?

# Read the openers



Look at your sentence openers.

Is there enough variety?

Look at your linking sentences and words between paragraphs, are they strong enough?

Is there flow?

Are opening clauses punctuated accurately?



	Example sentences
Description	<u>A warm, amber glow</u> illuminated the clifftop, though the smiles from the villagers radiated much further.
Action	<u>Waves seemed to crash endlessly</u> against the bottom of the cliff; water chewed at the rocks and warned of a storm brewing.
Dialogue	<u>'Thank goodness,'</u> whispered the lighthouse keeper, under his breath.
Where things are	<u>Below the towering lighthouse,</u> the boat bobbed and rocked through the choppy sea.
Adverbs	<u>Carefully</u> navigating the spiralled staircase with their lamps and torches in-hand, the villagers moved upwards, towards the lantern room.
Verbs	<u>Scrambling</u> over the clifftop, the villagers jostled into their positions to look out over the sea.
Estimation of the time	<u>Several moments later,</u> he emerged on to the platform and then out into the cold, night air.
Rhetorical question	<u>Would the boat see them in time to turn?</u>
Simile	The villagers stood, <u>like a host of angels,</u> guiding the ship to safety.

# Lesson 3

## Beowulf

Read the following story and then follow the writing task instructions...

## Beowulf

Crack...a fallen branch snapped under Beowulf's heavy foot. He froze instinctively, the silent drumbeat of his heart the only movement. When he was sure that he hadn't been exposed, he let out a heavy breath and grumbled to himself. He'd slain monsters before, that wasn't what was scaring him. The legend of Grendel was far worse than anything he'd encountered, though. Behind him, the sound of singing and feasting filtered through the wooden walls of Herot. The great hall was the home of Beowulf's good friend King Hrothgar.

Deep in his heart, the mighty warrior knew he didn't have a choice but to stay out in the cold. He'd made a solemn promise to the king that he would defeat the mighty beast that had been terrorising the king's lands. That was the plan tonight. Beowulf knew that the monster would attack and he wanted to be there to fight him when he did.

## Beowulf

Suddenly, a deep and mournful cry swirled through the night sky. Beowulf shivered. Instinctively, he reached for his trusted sword before remembering that he'd left it back in the great hall. He'd argued that the only noble choice was to match the monster unarmed. Partly, he'd made the promise out of honour but equally, it was out of sheer devilment after the devious thane Unferth had questioned his bravery. He was beginning to regret his decision.

The howl continued for such a long time that Beowulf began to wonder what creature could possess such big lungs. Eventually, it died down, and silence once again snatched the night in its grasp. At least he knew where the monster lay now, and Beowulf slunk deeper into the shadows to wait for his prey. Once again, the deathly silence was broken by a scream; this time of a smaller animal and cut off mid-shriek.

## Beowulf

Beowulf stood as still as he could until the shadows darkened, and chilled air filled his nostrils. He knew the ogre was close. Grunts and groans of something substantial moved up ahead. Again, he paused and waited. This time, a pair of blood-shot eyes pierced the black velvet a hundred yards in front of him.

“Hello, Grendel.” Beowulf stepped forward into the weak and flickering light of the reed torches on the front of the hall and tried to make his voice sound as brave and confident as he could. “I have heard that your scorn of men is so great that you need no weapon and fear none. Therefore, I am here unarmed to bring an end to your reign of terror.”

## Beowulf

For a second, Grendel didn't answer. When he did, it was nothing more than a short grunt. A cloud shifted in the sky, allowing the moonlight to break through and cast a tunnel of light onto the ogre. Beowulf held his tongue. The monster stood a dozen feet tall and was as broad as an ox. Scales and open sores that oozed thick green blood covered his skin. Sharp teeth thrust out of his mouth at odd angles, and his nose had long ago been flattened against his face. Many brave men had tried to defeat Grendel in the past, but none had succeeded. They'd left their mark, though, and his body told the tale of every battle.

Sensing an attack, Beowulf clenched his fists. He'd have one chance to overwhelm the ogre. He had to be ready. He leaned back on his heels, his bare feet sinking into the mud, and took a deep breath. Grendel lunged forward and covered the distance between them in one step. Beowulf leapt...



# Beowulf

1. Can you research what a “thane” was?
2. Explain what “Silence snatched the night in its grasp” means.
3. What does “held his tongue” mean?
4. Write the definition for “mournful”.

# Invention - Beowulf

## Task

Once you have read the story and understood what is going on: **Write a new chapter (adventure) for Beowulf.**

Where could you set it?

What character could you introduce?

Try and write a minimum of a page and a half. Use as much description as possible.

**Adventure stories often include:**

**Something exciting and extraordinary, often a quest or a mission. Escaping danger, going on a quest or experiencing something out of the ordinary.**

**\*\*\*BBC Bitesize – How to write an adventure story**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx339j6/articles/zgthrw>

Remember to use all your conventions of writing...

## What makes an adventure story?

An **adventure** forces action from the main character in response to the peril in the **story**, and the action must then affect the **story** -- so the **story** affects the main character and the main character affects the **story**.

## What is an adventure narrative?

A **narrative** telling the **adventures** of a hero or a family; originally (12th to 14th centuries) a **story** of the families that settled Iceland and their descendants but now any prose **narrative** that resembles such an account. Type of: **story**. a piece of fiction that narrates a chain of related events.

## Characteristics of Adventure Fiction

- Action and Excitement: Adventure novels typically have fast-paced, action-packed plot lines. ...
- Courageous Protagonists: Adventure-genre protagonists are traditionally male, but that trend is changing as writers choose brave, assertive females to fit the role. ...
- Dark Moods. ...
- Evil Adversaries.

# Lesson 4

## Beowulf

Finish writing your story ending and then follow the editing task...

Finish writing your story ending and then follow the editing task...

What other items can you improve?

# punctuation power

Look at your use of punctuation.

Is it accurate?

Is any missing?

How have you shown parenthesis?

Is there a range of punctuation?

Can you show that you can use punctuation to help clarify meaning?

Is dialogue appropriately punctuated?



Punctuation	Tally
. and Caps	
,	
!	
?	
;	
:	
()	
-	
" "	

Make a tally of the punctuation you have used. There will, of course, be a higher number of full stops and commas than any other piece of punctuation. Are there any opportunities in your writing to use other punctuation? Can you use punctuation to show parenthesis? Can you demarcate the boundary between clauses using a colon or semicolon?

# Lesson 5

## Writing an adventure narrative or story

You have adapted and extended an adventure narrative, now write your own...

Some ideas to help you follow....

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*Why is there an eye here?*



The tree had long, tangled roots and a thick trunk. It was Autumn and leaves covered the woodland floor. At the base of the trunk was a small, red door. The door was made from solid wood with one small glass window and had a shiny, round door handle.

*Who lives here?*



*Who is this?*



*What is the book about?*

#### Prompts

1. Use an expanded noun phrase.
2. Use a sound. E.g. Crunch!
3. Start the sentence with some action.
4. Use an exclamation.

**Fantasy Forest Inspiration Station KS1**

enchanted	magical	home	peaceful	conjured
hollow	woodland	brave	terrible	courageous
legend	unusual	mysterious	eerie	cunning
wicked	forest	miniature	special	riddle
secret	bewitched	roots	sorceress	frightful

### DADWAVERS! Openers

Description- In a comfortable house, in an enchanted forest, a curious creature lived.

Action- Sparks of bright light suddenly burst from the book.

Dialogue- "You have stolen my magic book!" yelled the angry fairy.

Where- Between the trees, he could see bright patches of sunlight.

Adverb- Cunningly, she lifted her magic wand and said the spell.

Verb- Sitting under the tree, the ladybird got out her picnic blanket and lay it on the ground.

Estimation of time- It was a nearly lunchtime and butterfly was very hungry.

Rhetorical Question- What would he do now?

Simile/Metaphor - She grinned and then snapped the wand in two like a twig.

**Note: DADWAVERS should be taught in small steps. In KS1 you may only wish to cover DAD or DADWAV. You may wish to only focus on one step and ask that the children practise this element until they are confident. You might choose to use some steps with selected groups only.**



*How did he capture the dragon?*

*How dangerous are they?*

*How hot is the fire?*

*What does his roar sound like?*

My heart was pounding and I could hear people telling me to run. I was petrified! "You are a brave human," the creature snarled at me. It was standing on top of a pile of gleaming treasure. I took one step closer.

#### Prompts

1. Start your sentence with an ing word.
2. Join two sentences using **and**.
3. Use a very short sentence.
4. Use a sentence with more than 10 words.

Dragon Narrative Inspiration Station KS1

fearsome	quest	knight	terrifying	lair
powerful	jaws	villagers	egg	hatched
wing	treasure	monster	defeat	magnificent
fiery	enemy	beast	scales	burned
talons	slayer	gleaming	razor	sharp

### DADWAVERS Openers

Description - It had rusty-red scales and black spikes along its spine.

Action - One of the dragons lifted his head and shot flames into the night sky.

Dialogue- "We have come together to have our revenge," the largest dragon hissed.

Where - Above him, a dark shadow swooped over the land.

Adverb - Elegantly, each of the creatures rose into the sky.

Verb - Beating their wings, they travelled across the ocean.

Estimation of time - Seconds later, they were face to face with a dragon.

Rhetorical Question- Could he defeat the dragon?

Simile/Metaphor - His eyes were as dark as a pitch-black night.

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