

# LESSON PLAN

September 2018

*Neil Gaiman*



JUST  
ENGLISH

Vol. 15 Issue 6  
*Neil Gaiman*

**C2** ADVANCE

Stages	Procedure	Time
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To practice               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. identifying word meaning in context</li> <li>b. scanning and skimming for details</li> <li>c. writing a fantasy short story</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<b>Warmer</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If there is Internet connection in the classroom, teacher can scan the bar code on page 45 or page 46 to show students the trailer of one of the following movies:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coraline</li> <li>2. Stardust</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Or teacher can download one the above trailers and show it to the class if there is no Internet connection.</li> <li>3. Teacher then asks for a show of hands – how many of them in the class have watched the movie.</li> <li>4. Teacher selects one or two students to briefly share to the class what the movie is about.</li> </ol>	<b>5 mins</b>
<b>Pre-reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher then gets students to turn to the article on page 44.</li> <li>2. Ask students to look at the title of the article and also the pictures in the article.</li> <li>3. Ask students what they think they are going to read about – expected answer – Neil Gaiman – and who do they think he is – expected answer – a writer.</li> </ol>	<b>2 mins</b>
<b>While-Reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher distributes <b>Task 1</b> and gets students to work with a partner to complete the vocabulary task.</li> <li>2. Teacher elicits and confirms answers.</li> <li>3. Next, teacher distributes <b>Task 2</b>.</li> <li>4. Students continue to work with their partners to complete the comprehension questions.</li> <li>5. Teacher elicits and confirms answers.</li> </ol>	<b>12 mins</b>
<b>Post-reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next, teacher put students into small groups and distributes <b>Task 3</b>.</li> <li>2. Teacher gets students to discuss in their groups and come up with a fantasy short story.</li> <li>3. Each group needs to write the short story and the story can be submitted for grading or teacher can get each group to present their short stories in the next lesson.</li> </ol>	<b>18 mins</b>
<b>Wrap</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher wraps up lesson.</li> </ol>	<b>3 mins</b>

## TASK 1

Put a tick (✓) on statements that provide context to the meaning of the word in bold. You can refer to the definitions of following words on page 48.

<b>1. Avid</b>
a) ___ Gaiman would devour any book he could get his hands on. b) ___ Some of Gaiman’s favourite childhood books include Lewis Carroll’s <i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> , J.R.R. Tolkien’s <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> series by C.S. Lewis. c) ___ Gaiman worked his way through his entire local children’s library and partway through the adult collection as well.
<b>2. Ruse</b>
a) ___ Other Mother and Other Father shower Coraline with love and gifts. b) ___ Other Mother is a witch who keeps children as her prisoners and steals their souls. c) ___ Coraline’s real parents are kidnapped and she has to win them back from Other Mother.
<b>3. Subverting</b>
a) ___ Gaiman has a gift for creating fairy tales and giving them unusual endings. b) ___ In Gaiman’s fantasy novel <i>Stardust</i> , a man named Tristan Thorn intends to win the heart of the girl he loves. c) ___ Gaiman enjoys writing about princesses and queens who aren’t the traditional damsels in distress; but instead choose to take matters into their own hands.
<b>4. Prestigious</b>
a) ___ The Newberry Medal is the highest award ever given to a children’s literature writer. b) ___ Gaiman got the inspiration from his son when he wrote <i>The Graveyard Book</i> . c) ___ <i>The Graveyard Book</i> tells the story of an orphaned boy who is raised in a graveyard by ghosts.
<b>5. Versatile</b>
a) ___ Sandman is one of the biggest influences in the fantasy and graphic novel genres. b) ___ Gaiman writes across various genres from horror to fantasy and science fiction. c) ___ Gaiman has also produced scripts for movies, radio plays and the television shows.
<b>6. Audiobooks</b>
a) ___ Gaiman astounds audiences with his clear and rich voice. b) ___ Fans of Gaiman, sitting spellbound as they listen to their favourite author read aloud from his stories and poetry. c) ___ Gaiman is one of the few writers who narrate their own work professionally.
<b>7. Trove</b>
a) ___ Gaiman is a role model in the literary world, inspiring fans and aspiring writers alike. b) ___ When asked for advice on how to become a writer, Gaiman usually has plenty of tips to offer. c) ___ Gaiman once said in his poem instructions: Trust dreams. Trust your heart, and trust your story.

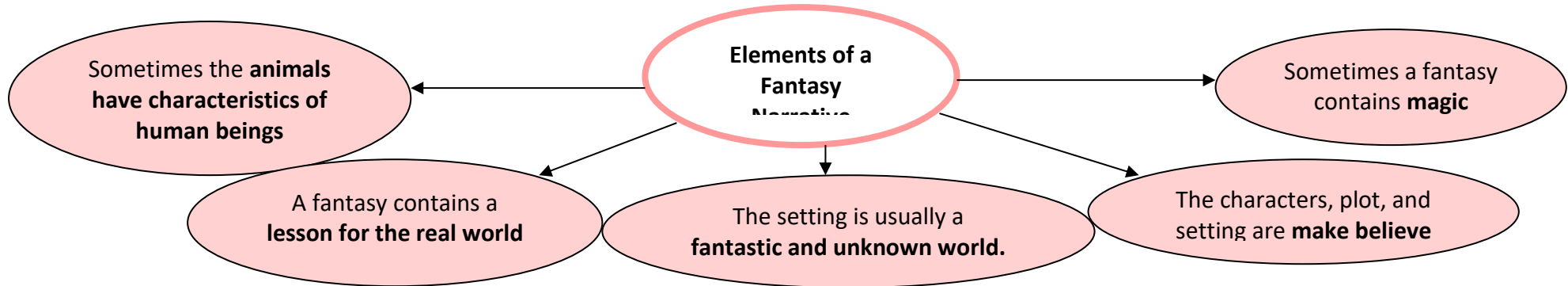
## TASK 2

Answer the following questions with reference to the article.

1. How does Neil Gaiman resemble a rock star?
2. How did Gaiman begin his writing career?
3. Was the book, <i>Coraline</i> , accepted well by young readers initially and why?
4. What can children learn from the story of <i>Coraline</i> ?
5. How are the fairy tales written by Gaiman different from others?
6. Why is Gaiman a unique and talented writer?
7. In your opinion, why did Stephen King call Gaiman ‘a treasure trove of stories’?
8. <b>“Write the ideas down. If they are going to be stories, try and tell the stories you would like to read. Finish the things you start to write. Do it a lot and you will be a writer. The only way to do it is to do it.”</b> Based on the above given tips by Gaiman, can you think of an English idiom that gives out the similar advice?

### TASK 3

Use the writing guide and graphic organiser below to brainstorm a fantasy narrative.



Introduce the characters and describe the setting.  
**The Beginning**

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How do you build up the excitement?  
**The Build-Up**

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What's problem, mystery, conflict or what terrible things happen?  
**The Problem / Dilemma**

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How are things going to be sorted out or solved?  
**The Resolution**

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Does the story end happily ever after or is there a twisted ending?  
**The Ending**

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## ANSWERS

### Task 1

1. a, b
2. b, c
3. a, c
4. a
5. b, c
6. a, b, c
7. a, b

### Task 2

1. Neil Gaiman always appears in public, dressed in black clothes, which gives him the appearance of a rock star.
2. Gaiman began his writing career as a journalist in his teenage years.
3. No, it was not well accepted because it was originally deemed too scary for children to read.
4. Children learn about being courageous and resourceful in dire situations.
5. His fairy tales have unusual endings that subvert his readers' expectations; and the princesses or queens he created in his stories aren't the traditional damsels in distress; but instead choose to take matters into their own hands.
6. Gaiman can write across various genres and he is one of the few writers who can narrate their own work professionally.
7. **Students' answers may vary for the question – sample answer:** Stephen sees Gaiman as 'a treasure trove of stories' because Gaiman is a versatile and inspiring writer who writes unconventionally; there are not many writers who are as talented as him.
8. **Students' answers may vary for the question – sample answers:** Practice makes perfect; No pain, no gain; Hard work pays off; Stop at nothing; Pull out all the stops, etc.