

Teacher's Notes – Who blocked the pipe?

LNF skills:

- gather and organise information and ideas from different sources
- show understanding of main ideas and significant details in texts
- infer meaning which is not explicitly stated

Activity Idea 1

1. Divide students into five groups. Explain that they are going to work together to solve a mystery. Each group will have a different text, but the facts all fit together into one coherent story. Their task is to read their text, extract the important facts, and then report on their part of the information to a rainbow group. The rainbow group is made from one member of all the original groups, so each member of the rainbow group will have read a different text. Emphasise that they all have different parts of the same story.
2. Give the students their texts (a different one for each group). For lower ability students, also give them the questions they need to answer about the text, or do this if it is the first time you have tried this type of activity with the group.
3. Give the students ten minutes to read their text in their groups (and answer the questions as a group). Encourage discussion in the group – what information is relevant? Why? Focus on details. They can make notes to help remind them but don't copy the whole thing down!!
4. Put the students into new groups containing one from each text group. Tell them to tell each other what they found out in their text. Ask them to work out what happened in chronological order. Who did what, and why?

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Activity Idea 2

1. Divide children into mixed ability groups. Explain that they have to work together to solve a mystery. Each group will be given all 5 of the texts. They have to use coloured pencils to highlight relevant parts of each text. They complete this on all 5 texts and then look for similarities.
2. Children then start to infer and deduce using the texts to find out who blocked the pipe. They must have evidence for their conclusion – the more evidence the better!
3. Children write a statement saying who blocked the pipe and how they know for sure!
4. Discuss at the end of the lesson to see if everyone agrees, especially with the evidence!