

Grade 8 Arts & Culture Worksheet

Writing a script for stories

Stories about the universe

Part One: A San story

The San people tell this story:

There was once a strong-willed girl who became so angry when her mother would not give her any delicious roasted root, that she grabbed the roasting roots from the fire and threw the roots and ashes into the sky. The red and white burning roots now glow as the red and white stars and the ashes are the Milky Way. Some people call it the Milky Way and some call it the Stars' Road. No matter what you call it, the path made by the young girl many, many years ago by throwing the bright sparks of the fire high up into the sky, shines like a road in the darkness. You can see it today.

1. What do scientists tell us the Milky Way is?

[4]

2. Imagine you are a mother or father living in a little village, thousands of years ago. One night, your little child points to the sky and asks you what the stars are. What story will you tell her?

Write your story and then read it to your partner. Your partner will make suggestions as to how you can improve your story. You help your partner in the same way.

You will then tell your story to the class.

The following rubric will be used to assess you.

[16]

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Rubric to assess writing of story and storytelling

Criteria	Level 4 [4]	Level 3 [3]	Level 2 [2]	Level 1 [1]
Story is in keeping with IKS and explains natural phenomena from a mythical viewpoint	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story is well written with excellent structure and logical progression	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Partners worked well together to edit the drafts; revision of story improved the story	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story was well told, with animated facial expression and proper creation of atmosphere	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.

Part Two: Write a drama script

- When you were younger, you may have been told that the moon is made of cheese! But the moon is definitely not made of cheese.
What is the moon made of? Research some facts on the composition of the moon.
Record your research as a set of summarised notes.

[10]

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2. The ancient Greek people thought that the sun was ruled by a god; they called him Helios. What are the sun and stars made of? Research some facts on the composition of the sun and stars. Record your research as a set of summarised notes. [10]

Authors of stories should make sure that they research their facts carefully in order to make the stories that they write authentic and believable. Once they have a sound basis of facts, they can use their imagination to add excitement and fantasy to a story!

3. Choose either the moon or the sun as the focus for a short drama. In your group, develop a script for your drama.

Once you have developed the script, get together with another group. Exchange scripts and read the script of the other group. Make comments on the script which you think will help the other group to improve their drama.

When you get your script back from the other group, discuss the comments that they have made on your script. Decide which suggestions you will use to make your drama better.

Revise your script and submit it for assessment.

[20 marks]

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Rubric for writing a script

Criteria	Level 4 [4]	Level 3 [3]	Level 2 [2]	Level 1 [1]
Learners worked efficiently and thoroughly to write the script	Outstanding co-operation.	Good co-operation.	Fair co-operation.	Poor co-operation.
All learners were involved in the decision-making which took place in a democratic manner	Outstanding decision-making.	Good decision-making.	Fair decision-making.	Poor decision-making.
The script followed the prescribed format with characters, dialogue and stage directions	Outstanding script format.	Good script format.	Fair script format.	Poor script format.
Script follows the story and is well structured with a beginning, middle and end with a climax	Outstanding structure.	Good structure.	Fair structure.	Poor structure.
Script is creative, original and exciting and offers much opportunity for dynamic interpretation in a stage production	Exceptionally creative and exciting.	Creative and exciting.	Fairly creative and exciting.	Not very creative and exciting.

4. Now rehearse your drama with your group. You must perform the drama for the class. You will be assessed according to the following rubric.

Rubric for performance of the drama

Criteria	Level 4 [4]	Level 3 [3]	Level 2 [2]	Level 1 [1]
Actors clearly were well rehearsed and knew what their roles were	Outstanding.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
The performance ran smoothly with no breaks or hitches when actors did not know what to do next	Outstanding.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
Acting was creative and dynamic, making for a successful performance	Outstanding.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
Audience enjoyed the performance	Outstanding.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
Overall, a successful, well-integrated, creative production	Outstanding.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.

[20 marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1.1	4	Scientists tell us that stars are clustered together ✓by the billions in groups called galaxies. ✓ The Milky Way is one of these galaxies. ✓ It is the galaxy that our solar system (our sun and planets) belongs to. ✓ The Milky Way is a large galaxy compared to some other galaxies that scientists have seen through powerful telescopes. Scientists calculate that there are about 100 billion stars in the Milky Way. All these stars are arranged in a spiral. Our sun is just one of these billions of stars in the spiral. ✓
1.2	16	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.
2.1	10	<p>Learner answers may differ; these are some guidelines to be used in marking:</p> <p>If you have looked carefully at the moon, you will see that it has a very rugged surface. ✓ There are light areas and dark areas. The dark areas are called seas, ✓ but they do not contain water. ✓ The seas are flat regions, whereas the light areas are rugged and are higher on average. For this reason, they are also called highlands. ✓ Across the whole surface, craters ✓ caused by meteors ✓ crashing into the surface of the moon, can be seen. In the years from 1969 to 1972 the Moon was explored by astronauts who brought back to Earth some samples of lunar rocks, ✓ so it has been possible to analyse these rocks. Moon rocks are volcanic and similar in composition to earth's volcanic rocks. ✓ But the surface of the moon is dusty ✓ and there is no growth ✓ or decomposition ✓ on the moon, so soil like we find on earth, does not exist on the moon. ✓ Elements found on earth are also found on the moon. Magnesium, silicon, iron, calcium and aluminium are found in moon rock. ✓ There is no nitrogen on the moon. ✓ In the 1990's, a probe called Clementine was sent to the moon. Clementine found that there are large quantities of hydrogen ✓ at the bottom of a few polar craters, both at the north and south poles of the Moon. It is also believed that this hydrogen is most probably water ice that is trapped in the cold, permanently shaded basins of the craters at the poles. ✓</p>
2.2	10	<p>Learner answers may differ; these are some guidelines to be used in marking:</p> <p>The first important thing to keep remembering is that the sun is a star. ✓</p>

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		<p>The sun is by far the biggest body in our solar system. ✓ The element hydrogen ✓ makes up about 94% of the sun, ✓ helium makes up about 6%, ✓ and all the other elements make up just 0.13%. ✓ Of these other elements, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen ✓ are the three most abundant elements. The sun also has traces of neon, sodium, magnesium, aluminium, silicon, phosphorus, sulphur, potassium, and iron. ✓ This is also true of the universe as a whole: Most of the universe is hydrogen, ✓ with some helium, and the remainder of the elements occur only in trace concentrations. ✓ So other stars are very similar in composition to our star, the sun. ✓ The element helium is the second most abundant in both the sun and the universe, but it is very difficult to find on the earth. ✓ Helium occurs in certain very deep gas wells on the earth. The name helium comes from <i>helios</i>, which is the Greek name for the sun, and the name that the ancient Greeks gave to their sun god. ✓</p>
2.3	20	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.
2.4	20	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.

Appendix of Assessment Tools

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Rubric for performance of the drama

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