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# About Literacy Alive!

## Literacy Learning Centres

### Stages 4-6

*Literacy Alive! Literacy Learning Centres Stages 4-6* has been designed for primary students in the middle and upper years.

It includes practical resources essential for teaching reading and writing skills. Although these resources have been designed to help teachers plan, prepare and implement relevant and interesting learning centres, the activities and resource cards can also be used for individual and whole class learning activities.

***Literacy Alive! Literacy Learning Centres Stages 4-6* includes the following features:**

- Text planners for each genre to encourage effective planning
- Three completed planners (each planner in a different level of ability) for each genre to demonstrate planning techniques and content
- Completed texts for each genre (each text in a different level of ability) to demonstrate how to convert planner content into text
- Reading activity cards that are relevant to each genre type
- Writing activity cards that are relevant to each genre type
- Grammar and spelling activity cards that complement the reading and writing tasks.

Be creative with the texts that you give to your students. Be resourceful – texts are everywhere! Use texts from newspapers, magazines, plays, poems, songs, other children’s work, guided reading material, literature resources, popular books, library books, the Internet, television scripts, publications, pamphlets, advertising material, recipe books, instruction manuals, letters from friends...the list is endless.

***Most importantly, find and use texts that are appropriate for each child’s ability level.***

This resource has been written to reinforce your teaching and the students’ learning. For example, it is suggested that you revise or teach your students about antonyms before giving them a grammar activity card focusing on this concept.

We cannot emphasise strongly enough the importance of valuing the written work of your students. Display it! Publish it! The Internet has some fantastic sites that allow students to publish their work for appreciative audiences to admire! Many students need to feel that there is a meaningful purpose to their writing. Many students also require a great deal more inspiration than we offer them. Keep these points in your mind as you prepare and plan.

Time is always an issue in classrooms. We encourage you to give students enough time to complete their work in a way that makes them proud. Students who end up with a pile of unfinished texts often lack the incentive to begin another one. Assess each draft thoroughly and teach children how to effectively edit their work and the work of others. Have comprehensive guidelines. Create a portfolio for written work that will encourage students to value the development of each writing task. Students find it difficult to value drafts written on scraps of paper that lie crumpled at the bottom of their desk.

Using *Literacy Alive! Literacy Learning Centres Stages 4-6* will help you create innovative and relevant learning centres focusing on the effective development of reading, writing, grammar and spelling skills. Catering for the individual learning differences has never been easier.

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# Writing a Narrative Text

## Rain Glorious Rain

I was eating my breakfast and reading the morning paper as I began to dread playing cricket in the afternoon. The temperature was fast approaching 30° Celsius, even at this early stage of the day. I checked the weather section and found the predicted temperature of 42°C had not changed. The cool change was not expected until tomorrow. As far as I was concerned the message was clear – no relief from the heat today! I moved to grab a glass of cold orange juice, only to find the paper sticking to my arm. It was going to be a very long day.

As I dressed for cricket I dreaded wearing long pants for the entire afternoon. I trudged off to the car, envious of my schoolmates who were spending the day at the beach. “Look at the bright side”, I said to myself, “The captain will win the toss and I’ll spend the day watching my team make the winning runs”. In my dreams! My heart sank like a lead balloon when I saw the coin toss land on heads, when our captain had called tails. My fate was sealed. I was forced to stand in the beating sun for five hours and chase a little red ball.

We were a downcast bunch as we hit the field. I don’t handle the heat too well and within fifteen minutes it was showing. Already my shirt was wet with perspiration and sweat was dripping from my hair down the back of my neck. The ball was becoming increasingly hard to hold as the sunscreen began dripping down my arms. With no relief in sight, we stumbled around and only gave token resistance to any ball in our area. It made no difference to me; I couldn’t have chased harder even if I wanted to. I felt as though I was running through water, with my pants soaked and my shoes literally filled with sweat. At lunch break, I stumbled off the ground and lay in the shade, guzzling as much water as I could.

Once back on the ground, I realised the only way I was going to survive was to pray. I had a headache from squinting and I felt as though I was in a sauna. Just as my will to continue was running out – it happened.

I felt a drop of rain. In my despair, I had failed to notice the gathering fleet of dark clouds. I sensed the whole team look up to the sky and at that exact moment, the clouds burst open and poured cooling rain on us all. No one left the field. There was no better place to be than right there. I felt a huge sense of relief as the enormous droplets of rain crashed onto me.

Never again would I appreciate the rain as much as I did at this very moment.

Reading

Narrative Text Task

Write three realistic events from the story.

Reading

Narrative Text Task

Who is the first character you meet in the story? Write a profile on this character.

Reading

Narrative Text Task

How are the characters in this story affected by other characters?

Reading

Narrative Text Task

How does \_\_\_\_\_ affect \_\_\_\_\_ in this story?

Reading

Narrative Text Task

Describe the relationships the characters have with each other.

# Planning a Discussion Text

## Should television be banned?

<p><b>List the key arguments supporting the issue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Television affects a person's fitness.</li><li>• There are too many ads on television.</li><li>• Children watch too much television.</li></ul>	<p><b>List the key arguments opposing the issue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helps you keep up with world events</li><li>• Cheap form of entertainment</li><li>• Can be educational</li></ul>
<p><b>Argument 1 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>Television affects a person's fitness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instead of being active outside, people stay inside and watch the telly.</li><li>• People are getting less exercise.</li></ul>	<p><b>Argument 1 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>Helps you keep up with world events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We find out events from all over the world.</li><li>• We get to see places that we may never visit.</li><li>• Current affairs are very important.</li></ul>
<p><b>Argument 2 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>There are too many ads on television:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is used as an advertising tool.</li><li>• Advertisers are more important to the television stations than the audiences.</li><li>• 1/3 of every hour is advertisements.</li></ul>	<p><b>Argument 2 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>Cheap form of entertainment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Going to the movies is expensive.</li><li>• Watching television is free.</li><li>• It can be a fun activity.</li></ul>
<p><b>Argument 3 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>Children watch too much television:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It stops children from doing their homework or chores.</li><li>• Parents have to nag their children to get anything done.</li></ul>	<p><b>Argument 3 - Supporting ideas</b></p> <p><b>Television can be educational:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It can teach us many things.</li><li>• We see things that we may otherwise never see.</li><li>• It brings amazing things into our living rooms.</li></ul>
<p><b>Summarise key arguments and present a recommendation:</b></p> <p>There are many reasons for and against banning television. It is my opinion that television is an important part of our lives, but should be used wisely.</p>	

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# Writing a Discussion Text

## Should television be banned?

Television can cause problems in many households. Some people think that television should be banned, while others disagree. There are many arguments to support each of these views. Let's begin by studying the reasons why television should be banned.

Firstly, television can affect a person's fitness. Instead of being active around the house or in the garden, many people spend their free time sitting inside glued to the television. More and more free time is being spent this way, so people are getting less exercise.

Secondly, there are more advertisements on TV than shows. Television has become a very successful advertising tool and advertisers have become more important to the TV stations than the viewers. Have you noticed that a one-hour episode has almost 20 minutes worth of ads in it? What a waste of time!

Thirdly, some children are watching too much television. Television viewing is stopping some children from doing their homework and finishing their chores. Parents have to nag their children to finish their homework, have a shower and walk the dog, all because the kids can't pull themselves away from the telly.

On the other hand, television can play a very important role in our lives.

Television is a way of keeping up with events all around the world. By watching the news each day, we find out the important things that are taking place in countries far away. We get to see what life is like in places that we have never been. Keeping up with world news is very important for us all.

Television can be a very cheap form of entertainment. Going to the movies costs around \$10 per person. You can watch movies on the TV for free! If television is used wisely, it can be a great way to have fun with family and friends.

And finally, we can learn many things on television. Documentaries can teach us about the most amazing things, such as animals that we are never likely to see ourselves, or people that live in the most remote and exotic places. Filmmakers capture animals and people in their natural environments and show us things that we have never seen with our own eyes. Television can bring all of these incredible things into our own living rooms.

After considering the reasons for and against banning television, it is my opinion that television is a very important part of our lives, but should be used wisely.