



English: First Additional Language

NQF 2

NQF LEVEL

2

Read and listen for enjoyment

Module 11

Overview

- Short stories
 - Key features
 - Plot
 - Background
 - Setting
 - Theme
 - Characters

Overview (continued)

- Express appreciation of story and story-telling techniques
 - Read and listen for enjoyment
- Writing techniques and stylistic devices
 - Simile
 - Metaphor
 - Personification
 - Irony
 - Allusion

Words, words, words!



- Literature
- Fiction
- Non-fiction

Reading is good for you!

Fact 1

Reading makes you a better conversationalist.

Fact 2

The neighbours will not complain that you are reading loudly!

Fact 3

Knowledge by osmosis does not exist so you'd better read!

Fact 4

Books can save your life!

Fact 5

Dinosaurs didn't read and they became extinct!

[Click to start](#)

Characteristics of a good short story



Believable **characters**

Realistic **setting and background**

Universal **theme**

Click to start

Key features of a short story

Plot

- is a series of events
- are the things that happen to the characters.

Background

- describes the world a character lives in
- could concentrate on a particular type of family, social position or culture
- could be the historical, geographical or political situation in which a character lives .

Setting

- is the time and place in which the story happens
- answers the question when and where the action takes place.

Characters

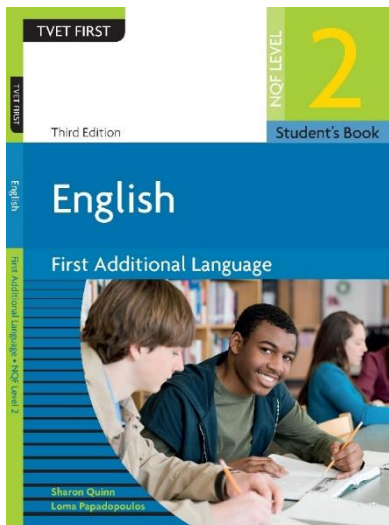
- are the people in the story
- a short story only has a few characters
- characters come to life by what they say, do and think and by what other characters say about them or think of them.

Theme

- is the main idea, message or belief in the short story – some examples of common themes are: fear of failure, forbidden love, jealousy, greed, the dangers of love letters, childhood memories.

Click to start

Diagram 1 : Key features of a short story



Learning activity 11.1

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.1 on page 164 of the *Student's Book*.

Structure of a short story



Diagram 2 : The structure of a short story

Structure of a short story

The middle of the story explains the problem facing the main character

The problem the main character faces can take different forms. It could be an argument or disagreement between:

- the main character and a family member, employer, friend or colleague
- a powerful person or animal or the forces of nature threatening to harm the main character or characters
- the main character and his or her own conscience, to decide on what would be the correct moral action or decision to take.

Diagram 2 : The structure of a short story

Structure of a short story

THE HIGH POINT OF THE STORY

This is where the danger, threat, shame or sadness that is facing the main character is at its worst. This is the darkest moment. At this point it looks as if the character will fail. Perhaps he, or someone close to him, will die. Or, maybe everyone will know his darkest secrets. After the high point, the story slowly begins to wind down. Here, the reader learns what the result is of the actions the main character has taken, or the decisions he or she has made. The writer leads the reader to the end of the story.

Diagram 2 : The structure of a short story

Structure of a short story

ENDING

This is the final part of the story where any unfinished explanations are brought together and explained or answered.

Diagram 2 : The structure of a short story

Structure of a short story

The middle of the story explains the problem facing the main character

The problem the main character faces can take different forms. It could be an argument or disagreement between:

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THE HIGH POINT OF THE STORY

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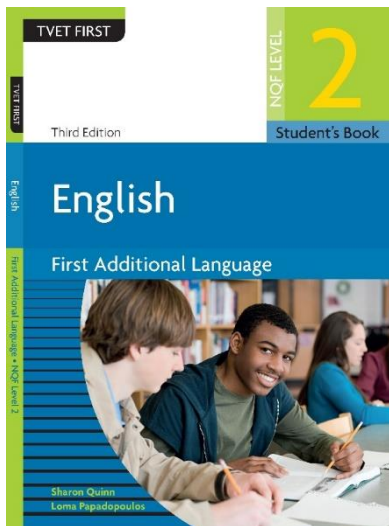
BEGINNING

Every story has a beginning. This is where the writer introduces the reader to the characters, the background and the setting. The writer hints at the big problem that the main character faces.

ENDING

This is the final part of the story where any unfinished explanations are brought together and explained or answered.

Diagram 2 : The structure of a short story



Learning activity 11.2

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.2 on page 165 of the *Student's Book*.

Writing Techniques and Stylistic Devices: Figures of speech

Simile

Metaphor

Personification

Irony

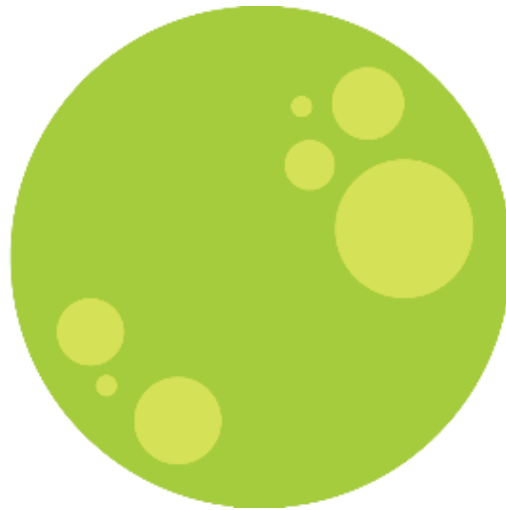
Allusion

Idioms and proverbs

Click to start

Simile

A simile is a direct comparison that uses **'like'** or **'as'**. The writer compares two things that are not the same to make the reader see these objects with fresh eyes.



*The moon looks **like** a balloon tonight, it is so bright and so round.*

Metaphor

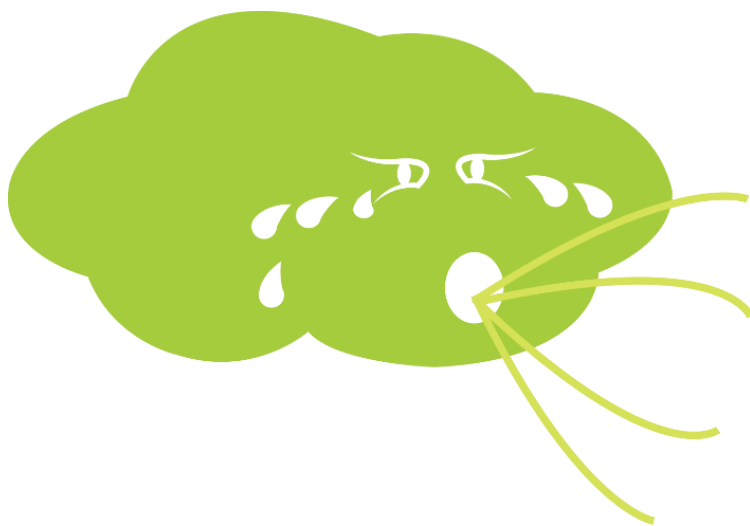
A metaphor is an indirect comparison. It compares two things that are not the same but finds something between them that is similar.



When Lucy's children are in trouble, she is a lion.

Personification

Personification is an indirect comparison where something that does not have life is given human qualities.



The wind was sobbing and moaning the whole night.

Irony

Irony says something but means the opposite to draw attention to or make fun of something.



“You are such a brave boy!” the girl teased as her boyfriend ran away from the large spider.

Allusion

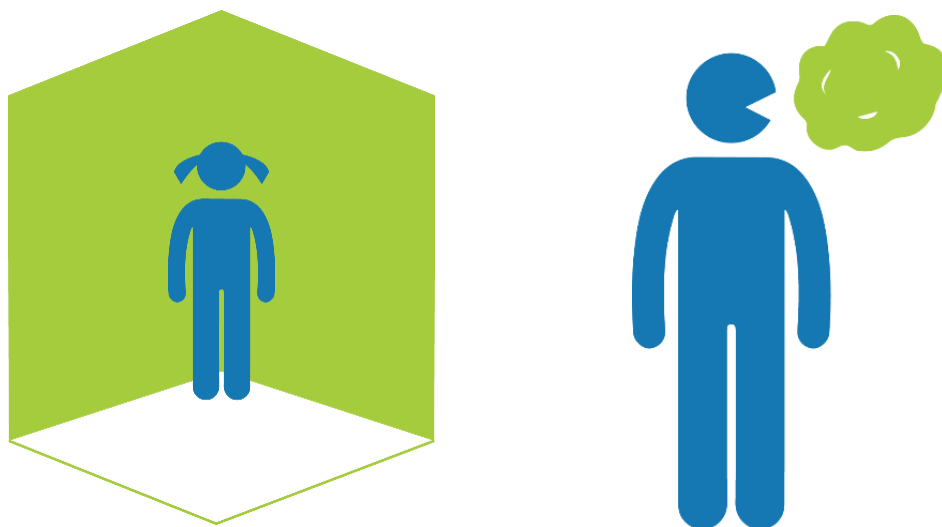
Allusion is when a writer talks about someone or something famous or well-known and assumes that the reader knows who or what it is and can understand why he is referring to it.



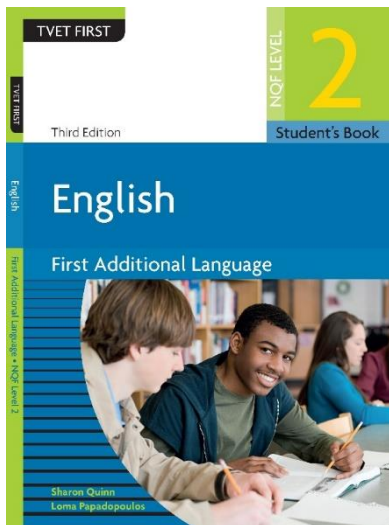
He stood as still as Lot's wife.
This is a biblical allusion in a simile.

Idioms and proverbs

Idioms and proverbs are examples of language used to create an effect because they have been used so often that they have become part of everyday speech.



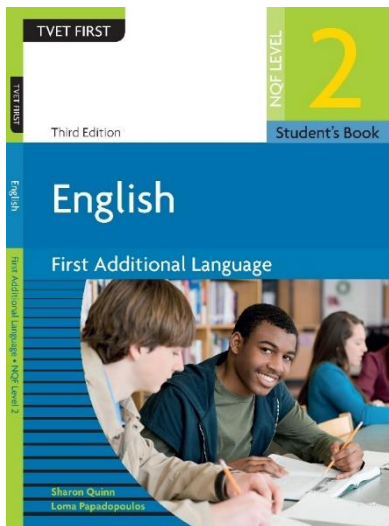
'To be in a tight corner' means to be in serious trouble.
'To bite the dust' means to give up because you have failed.



Learning activity 11.3

Module 11

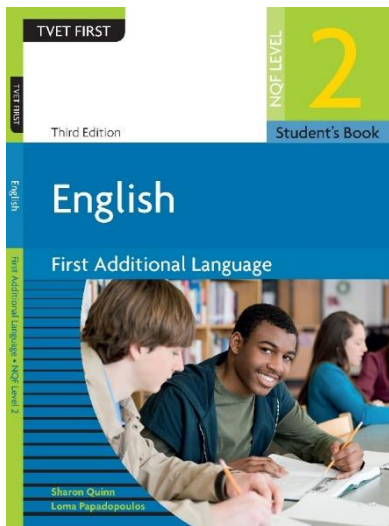
See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.3 on page 166 of the *Student's Book*.



Learning activity 11.4

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.4 on page 167 of the *Student's Book*.

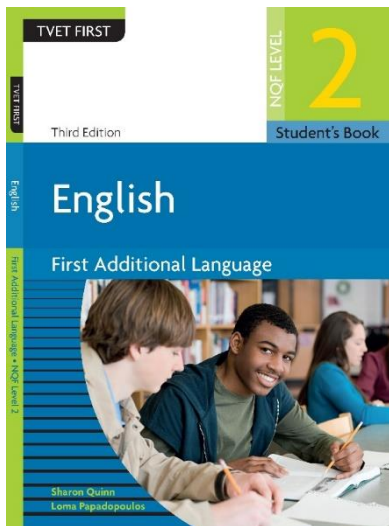


Listen to and appreciate a short story

Learning activity 11.5

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.5 on page 168 of the *Student's Book*.

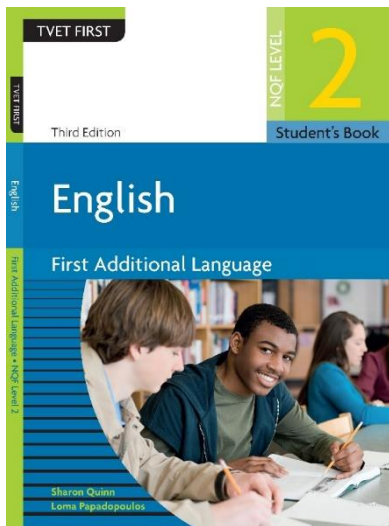


Read and appreciate a short story

Learning activity 11.6

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.6 on page 170 of the *Student's Book*.

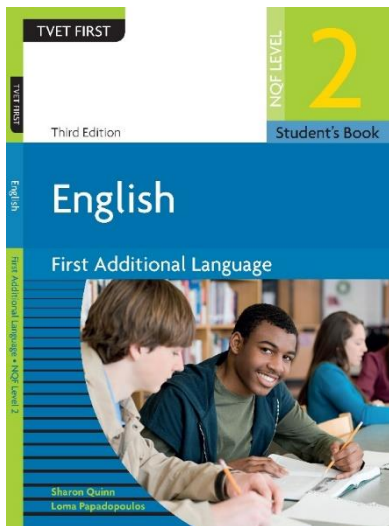


Read and enjoy a short story

Learning activity 11.7

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.7 on page 174 of the *Student's Book*.



Literature assignment: Short story

Learning activity 11.8

Module 11

See how well you understand this section. Complete Learning activity 11.8 on page 178 of the *Student's Book*.

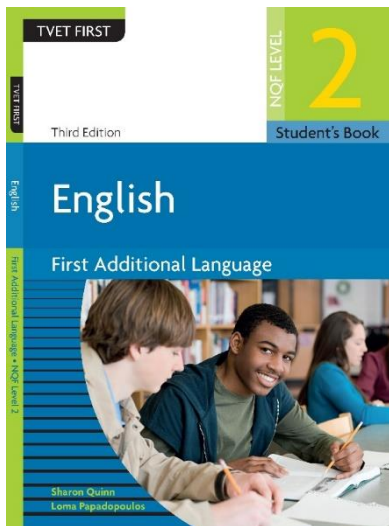
Summary of Module 11

A short story:

- has a beginning, a middle and an ending
- can be read in one sitting
- has few characters
- has one main theme.

A successful short story writer uses stylistic devices and writing techniques to create a believable setting and a realistic background. These include:

- Figures of speech based on comparison:
 - a metaphor is an indirect comparison
 - a simile is a direct comparison that uses 'like' or 'as'
 - personification is when inanimate objects are given life-like or human qualities.
- Allusion refers to people, objects or events that the writer expects the reader to be familiar with.
- Irony highlights one meaning by saying the opposite.
- Idiomatic expressions and proverbs give the English language rich meaning and help the reader understand more about the background and culture of the characters.



Formative assessment

Module 11

Test your knowledge of Module 11 by completing the Formative assessment on page 180 of your *Student's Book*.



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