



STORIES FROM THE SEA

SHIPWRECKS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 1

AFTER THE CLOCK STOPPED



Key learning outcomes

Using empathy to write from a character's point of view

Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's imagination

Activity

As a class, look at the watch owned by Robert Douglas Norman, who died on the Titanic, in the **Shipwreck Objects** gallery. Talk about the timepiece stopping when Robert entered the freezing water and the contrast between before and after this event. Use the '**Titanic Remembered**' films written by survivors of the Titanic to think of ideas of what was happening on board the ship before the watch stopped. Tell the class they are going to write the first verse of a poem beginning 'Before the clock stopped...'. Choose three or four key words to describe what was happening where, such as the deck or the lifeboats, and list these one under the other. As a class or in groups, add description on either side of the nouns in the list so they now sit roughly in the middle of each line of the poem. Similarly, think of key nouns to form a second verse of the poem beginning 'after the clock stopped...'; for example, the water, the cold, the darkness. Children can be encouraged to read their

poems aloud to a partner during the composition process. More able children can be challenged to think about how the rhythm of the first verse of their poem relates to the ticking of a clock. Can they change the rhythm when the clock stops in the second verse?



Resources

The *Titanic* watch in the **Shipwreck Objects** gallery

The '*Titanic Remembered*' films in the **Shipwreck Objects** gallery



More ideas

'Winter' by Judith Nicholls and 'Daughter of the Sea' by Phillip Gross may be useful poems to look at for poetic descriptions of the cold and the sea. Children can focus on particular poetic devices in describing each noun; for example similes, metaphors or personification.



Supported using public funding by



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