

KS3 English – 'Operation Flashback'

Exploring plot manipulation and creative writing techniques using the story of Kelvedon Hatch Nuclear Bunker

Lesson 1 – Beginning at the end: Thinking about plot

National Curriculum relevance

- KS3 > English > Grammar and vocabulary > consolidate and build on their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary
- KS3 > English > Writing > write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information
- KS3 > English > Writing > plan, draft, edit and proof-read

Main teaching points

- Any piece of writing must be plotted or planned.
- The usual order is: Exposition / Conflict / Climax / Resolution
- In this lesson, we will be looking at the 'resolution' of the Cold War story

Activities

Elicit from students of the importance of plotting / planning a story, and of the traditional structure as outlined in the four steps above. Remind pupils of the meaning of these words and discuss the idea of a 'story arc' (also often referred to at KS2 as the 'story mountain') – use that term to build on *prior knowledge*.

Flashback

Using Flashback means beginning at a different place. We will begin our story with the resolution, learning the techniques to inform our reader of what happened before.

Watch the video clips selected from the resource for this lesson at coldwarflashback1.lgfl.net and encourage students to *imagine* buying the bunker, considering the following:

- Where would this part of the story take place?
- Would it take place in an office? Perhaps a solicitor?
- Would it begin with the opening of a letter?
- Would it begin with a family meeting?

Then view the augmented-reality artefact of the nuclear shelter – does this help them gain a sense of place and change any of their perceptions? You may wish to construct similar tasks around the other augmented reality artefacts within the resource – see coldwarAR.lgfl.net for the full range and for instructions on how to use the AR within The Cold War.

Now ask students to write a descriptive passage explaining how the bunker was built.