# Title of Scheme: Narrative Openings

# WEEK 1

### **Key Learning:**

Students learn how to write effective descriptions of settings, creating mood and atmosphere at the start of a story.

# **LESSON 3 - Adverbials**

# **Learning Objectives:**

To show the work that adverbials do in establishing settings.

# **Learning Outcomes:**

Write a descriptive paragraph, focussing on the use of adverbials to enhance specificity and mood.

### **Recap: Noun Phrases**

Review a single noun from the prior day's paragraph and present a range of combinations of phrases that add to the noun. Employ precise questioning of the students on the meanings of the technical terms: noun, noun phrase and adjective.

# Introduction:

### Teacher:

Introduce the notion of a *verb* to the class. After performing the following activity, **relate** how *adverbials* are to *verbs* like *noun phrases* are to *nouns* 

#### Students:

Read or display a range of *verbs* on the board and ask the students to enact them. Then, using the same verbs, add to or qualify them with *adverbials*.

# **Development:**

### Teacher:

Discuss with the class the importance of specificity in writing. Re-state the notion of the reader as a person in a dark soundproof room - everything that they know about a setting has to be **inside** the words of the text.

### Pairs:

Hand out the text of the opening paragraphs of Neuromancer by William Gibson and The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham and ask the students to search for as many verbs as possible (this can be simplified if needed to "actions and doing words"). Once they have done this (and the number of verbs has been arrived at) have them look back at the text and find a verb that has been added to in *manner*, *time*, place or probability - thus finding an adverbial.

### Whole Class:

Check the first paragraph and then second on the datashow. Students share their favourite adverbials from the text. Noting the use of adverbs and sometimes phrases with prepositions (building on prior learning from Lesson 1).

## Individuals:

Producing a new image, display it again on the datashow - this time instead of using a noun overlay, provide verbs that might help in the description of the scene, which is the opening of a novel set in a dystopian olympics. Remind the students that we are trying to build that picture in the mind of the reader in the dark silent room and ask them to write some adverbials that could help do this.

**Teacher:** If suitably equipped, write your own opening paragraph on the board, highlighting the verbs and adverbials as you go

## Conclusion:

Share work with partner. Have you used adverbials to add detail and specificity to your paragraph? Look back to the text of Neuromancer and Day of the Triffids - what ways did Gibson and Wyndham use adverbials? Can you attempt to copy their style in your own paragraph?

# Support:

Provide an alternative copy of the texts with some of the verbs and adverbials highlighted

Provide some useful adverbial samples for use with the provided image

# Challenge:

Try re-creating some sentences from your paragraph using prepositions at the beginning and/ or including some noun phrases for mood (building from the previous two days)