



Diary of a Wimpy Kid



Zoo-Wee Mama - competition notes for teachers

The competition

As part of the Read North East campaign from the National Literacy Trust, pupils aged 7-11 (Years 3-6) are challenged to create a three-scene comic book strip, inspired by the *Zoo-Wee Mama* comic in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books.

Using the entry template provided, pupils' comics should be about something funny that takes place back at school after the summer holidays. It can be based on something real or fictional.

Pupils should include:

- Speech bubbles to show when a character is talking
- Characters and scenes drawn in a cartoon style
- Something funny that happens to the main character on the first day back at school
- The main character shouting "Zoo-Wee Mama!" at the end

Prizes

One lucky pupil will win the opportunity to meet Jeff Kinney at an event in Newcastle on Friday 16 November, along with up to 30 classmates. They will also win a box of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books for their school.

Five runners up will win a box of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books for their school.

Resources available

- Competition template and guidance for pupils
- A poster to promote the competition

Submitting entries

Entries must be submitted by a teacher by Friday 26 October 2018.

You can submit entries in the following ways:

- By email to: readnortheast@literacytrust.org.uk
- In the post to: Read North East, National Literacy Trust, 68 South Lambeth Road, London, SW8 1RL.

Inspiration

Below are some suggestions that you could use to generate ideas for the competition with your class:

Activity 1 – First day feelings

- Have whole class discussion about what children are thinking and feeling when they come back to school after the summer holidays
- Record suggestions on a flip chart/whiteboard

Activity 2 – Sharing stories

- Every child will have a story of something funny that has happened at school
- Ask children to talk in pairs about their funniest school stories
- Select a few children to share their partner's funny story
- Record some of these suggestions on a flip chart/whiteboard for children to use as inspiration

Activity 3 – Modelling

- Select one of the children's scenarios or one of the following (or create your own!):
 - Class pet escapes and ends up in the school lunch
 - Your new next door neighbour turns out to be the new school head teacher
 - An older brother picks up his little sister's bookbag instead of his own
- Model the thought process and think aloud about how this scenario could transfer to a three panel comic strip
- Ask for input from the children – Where would this take place? Which characters would be involved? What would they be saying? What would that look like in a comic strip?
- Sketch your ideas on the board - draw simple cartoon characters (for less confident artists, make sure to point out that Jeff Kinney uses very simple stick-like drawings!) and some speech bubbles
- At various stages, ask the children to talk in pairs about what could happen and what could be said

Activity 4 – Planning

- Give children the chance to plan and draft their comic strips, focusing on sketching the drawings and then working on the dialogue
- Once they are happy with their plan, children can focus on producing their final comic strip – making it look as colourful and vibrant as possible
- You may want to print out copies of Greg and Rowley's *Zoo-Wee Mama* comic to share with your pupils for inspiration. Here are some examples:



National curriculum links

The comic book competition supports the following requirements of the Key Stage 2 national curriculum.

Lower KS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils should be taught to plan their writing by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar• Pupils should be taught to draft and write by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In narratives, creating settings, characters and plot
Upper KS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils should be taught to plan their writing by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using similar writing models as their own• Pupils should be taught to draft and write by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning○ In narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action

Offer from Peters

Books in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series are available to buy at 40% off from schools.peters.co.uk. Peters is the number one supplier of children's books and furniture to schools in the UK. Register to buy online and you'll also get exclusive access to expert librarian reviews, recommended reads and bestsellers and member discounts.

About Read North East

Read North East is a campaign from the National Literacy Trust, in partnership with the North East Literacy Forum.

The campaign focuses on encouraging parents to talk and read to their babies and children, strengthening the culture of reading across the region, and engaging businesses to play an important role in addressing the literacy challenge.

Members of the North East Literacy forum include the National Literacy Trust, the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL), the Education Endowment Foundation, New Writing North, Penguin Random House, SCHOOLS NorthEast, Seven Stories and the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL).

Find out more at readnortheast.org.uk.