

English: Literacy - report writing (or equivalent)

Learning objective

To recognise how arguments are constructed to be effective through the provision of persuasive examples and illustrations.

To appeal to the known views and feelings of the audience.

Resources

Print out the report, 'Horrible accident' for each pupil.

You could enlarge it on the photocopier or save the pictures from the image bank and project them onto a white board.

For independent work you will need to print out the headlines.

If you have access to a networked PC and whiteboard it would be an idea to save all these resources on your shared area so other staff can access them.

Whole class shared reading - 15 minutes

Print out and read the report of 'Horrible accident' from Track Talk and discuss the consequences of what happened to these particular children. Also discuss the use of the language in the story. Did the report have linked points and sequences about what happened? How effective would this article be to an audience? Would it persuade the reader to think about their behaviour near a railway and encourage them to influence others not to act inappropriately?

Grammatical awareness

To identify the use of passive verbs in the text.

Independent Activity

Once you have read the article, show the children the A4 sheet with the headlines on.

Explain that you would like the pupils to choose a headline from the sheet. After they have decided they can draft report of their own showing linked points and sequences about the headline. They must make use of passive verbs and make the report influence the reader to think about the consequences of inappropriate behaviour near a railway.

Plenary

Come back together as a whole class and ask children to read their drafts. Present them to each other. Discuss the use of the language and how children have try to influence the reader. Are they effective and have they made use of passive verbs.

Extension work

Once the children have drafted the reports they could write them out on a large A3 piece of paper and illustrate them. It would make a good display in an area of the school that is used by all children. This would be creating awareness of the dangers of inappropriate behaviour on or near the railways.

VANDALS DISRUPT JOURNEY

**TRAIN
DRIVER IN
SHOCK**

Train Stone Youth Locked Up

250,000 VOLTS KILLS

VANDALS STONE TRAIN

**KILLER
VANDALS**

**KEEP CRIME
OFF THE LINE**

THE HEROES
OF RAILWAY
CRISIS

RAIL DRAMA UNFOLDS

News Flash!

SERIOUS
INJURY

**RECKLESS
ACTION**

VANDALS TO BLAME

OVERHEAD POWER CABLES

*Vandalism
on the Line*

**TRAIN DRIVER
IN SHOCK**

TRACK TALK

RAILWAY SAFETY RAILWAY SAFETY RAILWAY SAFETY



POLICE REPORT

Two of the policemen involved with the accident, PC Lenny Bird and PC Steve Waring, were responsible for breaking the news of the 12 year-old's death to his parents.

PC Bird, a railway policeman for over 20 years, said: "No matter how long you are in the job, you never get used to telling parents that their child has been involved in an accident.

The shock, tears and panic that comes with the news that their son or daughter has been fatally injured in this kind of tragedy lives with you for the rest of your life. It can ruin a family - even years after the accident parents still never get over the shock of losing a loved one. One of the worst aspects of the job is having to return the person's personal belongings, things like cinema tickets, sweets, pocket money...even photos of their little sister".

PC Waring commented: "This case highlights the stupidity of playing near the railway system. Children have got to understand that the railway is dangerous. It may seem an exciting place but it is not a playground. People are killed every year, bringing grief to their family and friends. Just please stay away from railway land!"

EVIDENCE FOUND AT TRACKSIDE

During the investigation police at the scene found footprints and a shoe worn by the victim. 30 metres from the accident the remains of the concrete block were found, which had broken into several pieces as it smashed into the train driver's windscreen. Glass which had cut the driver's face and hands was found on the line along with the victim's watch. Two of the eyewitnesses, who were close by when the 12 year-old fell, were being treated in a local hospital for shock.

EMERGENCY SERVICES PRAISED FOR PROMPT ACTION

Horrific Accident

BULLIES BLAMED FOR RAILWAY DEATH

Today in court a jury heard how an act of vandalism carried out under pressure from a bully went terribly wrong and led to the death of a young boy.

Last month John Smith, a lively 12 year-old, was killed when he fell from a railway bridge and landed in front of an oncoming freight train. The court was told how John had been forced to help Matt Brown (15), from Denby Drive, to throw a concrete block onto a train travelling on the Main Line. Tragically John had slipped off the bridge, while still holding the block, just as the train was passing.

GOING HOME

Rod Jones (14), a friend of Matt's who had been with him at the time of the accident, stood up in front of the court and relived the terrible events that lead up to John's death. He said that Matt and he were on their way home from school at about 3.45pm. Before they got to the railway bridge Paul had suggested finding something to throw at the passing trains for a bit of fun. When they got to the bridge they saw John who they had never met before but was wearing a school uniform from another school. They went up to John and pushed him around and bullied him



until he was made to help them collect the concrete block from a nearby building site. Paul said, "John did not want to help but Matt had hit and kicked him. When the train came John just seemed to fall. I don't know how it happened."

The train was so severely damaged in the accident that it took several hours to clear the track leaving commuters stranded and many services had to be cancelled.

Mrs Smith, John's mother, left the court in tears with her husband and close relatives. An Uncle

from the family said, "This has been a most terrible time for us all, if there was any way we could get John back we would do it".

Matt Brown has been sent to a secure unit for twelve months while Paul Jones is on six months probation. In summing up the judge said, "Both boys will have to live with what they have done to an innocent young life. It is only by luck that the train was not carrying passengers. Who knows what might have happened if that had been the case."

TRAIN DRIVER "MAY NEVER WORK AGAIN"

The driver of the train involved in the horrific accident was named in court as Peter Jones (age 46) a married man with two teenage children.

As a result of his experience Mr Jones is still undergoing specialist treatment and was unable to appear in court. Counsel for the prosecution, Mr Michael White QC, said: "Railway vandals do not appreciate all the consequences of their actions. Apart from the

tragedy for the victim's parents and family, Mr Jones is in such a state of shock he may never work again."



Get a life - don't lose it!