

FIRE BOY

Some flaming hot writing resources for teachers and librarians.

Get your groups reading and writing with Aidan Sweeney and FIRE BOY!

WARM UPS

Here are a few language games to get you started:

What's my super power?

This is Twenty Questions for the supremely gifted. Children think of a super power and others have to guess what it is.

(Hint: Strange abilities like the power to transform into a Tyrannosaurus Rex or control the weather will be harder to guess!)

The mystery box

In *Fire Boy*, Aidan receives a top secret parcel which contains an information book and a jar of sweets. This sets off a chain of events which transform Aidan into a fiery super hero.

Imagine you receive a box in the post. It is wrapped in brown paper and has odd stamps and lettering running round its sides.

What's in it? Brainstorm some ideas. Choose one, then work backwards: who sent it? What might happen when you open it?

Criminals, Brutes and Scoundrels

Every hero needs an evil villain. Who's yours? What powers will this scoundrel have? Think of a suitably awful name and describe what he or she can do.

And don't forget: villains must be *terrible*, so make her NASTY! Make him HORRIBLE! How WRETCHED can your evil villain be?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Here are a few fiery ideas to use alongside *FIRE BOY*.

GRAPHIC CONTENT

Super hero stories and comic books go together like fish and chips. *FIRE BOY* is no different. Use Sam Perrett's illustrations as your launchpad to create your own mini-comic.

Choose a favourite scene from the book. Then divide it into six or eight 'frames' as if you were a movie director shooting a film. Take a piece of paper and organise it into comic book panels.

If you want to draw a comic strip, make six same-sized rectangles.

If you want to create a storyboard, make the rectangles and squares different sizes as they do in graphic novels – large panels for important scenes, narrow panels for close-ups, and so on.

Draw in the characters and add in your word bubbles and narration. Then fill in the backgrounds of each panel.

POINT OF VIEW

FIRE BOY is Aidan's story. He is Fire Boy. The novel is written in the first person from his point of view.

But what if someone else were telling this same story?

How might the opening chapters sound if Sadie or Hussein were our narrators? How would they describe the opening of Aidan's parcel?

Pick a character from the novel that you like. Imagine what *FIRE BOY* might look like through his or her eyes, then re-write a scene from the book from your character's point of view.

CIRCUS HELL

Pandemonium breaks out in the Big Top when Aidan flies for the first time. As he soars over the crowd on fire, people panic. Is it a demon? Is he a dragon? What *is* he?

Write a newspaper report of Aidan's first flight. Tell your readers how London's bomb disposal unit were called out to Zarathustra's Travelling Circus. What did they find? Remember to include quotes from eyewitnesses like Dmitri, Mitchell Mulch and others.