

Using Literature to Teach Language

Promoting writing and creative writing skills

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In this session

- Exploring a variety of text types and activities;
- Writing activities that promote both language awareness and creativity;
- Boosting students' confidence in themselves as writers

Working with blurbs... ...you're doing it wrong!



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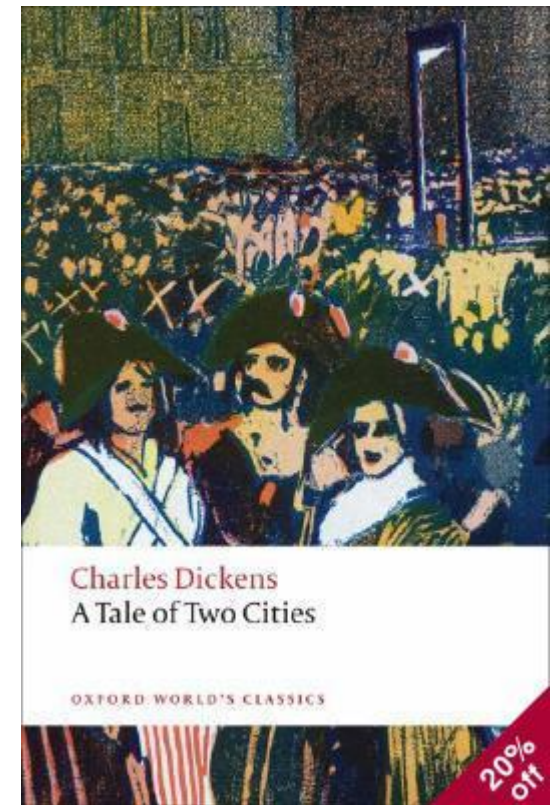
This novel starts with this old doctor who's in prison in Paris, during the French Revolution of 1066. He escapes to England and then there's this boring bit that lasts for a few hundred pages. (You can skip through some of these parts.) So the old doctor's daughter marries this French guy, but there's another English guy who looks just like the French guy, and he loves her, too. The French guy goes back to Paris and they put him in prison. Then they let him out. Then they put him in prison again. They want to kill him, but then the English bloke who looks just like him changes places with him and he gets killed instead. Or something like that.

Working with blurbs

A Tale of Two Cities

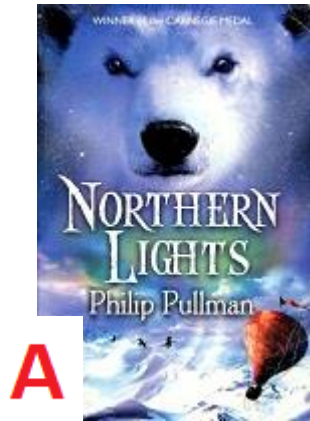
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Dickens' second historical novel, which he considered "the best story I have written," provides a highly-charged examination of human suffering and human sacrifice. Private experience and public history parallel one another as the political activities and personal responsibilities of these fictional characters, during the French Revolution, draw them into the Paris of the Terror.



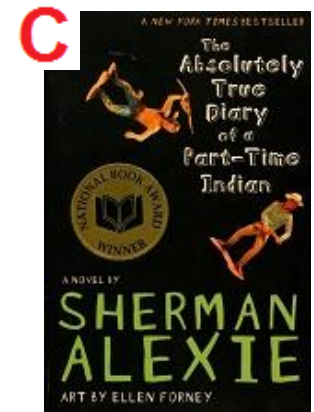
Working with blurbs

Matching



1. *When sixteen-year old Tris makes her choice, she cannot foresee how drastically her life will change...*

2. *When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, set out to find him...*



3. *Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian reservation...*

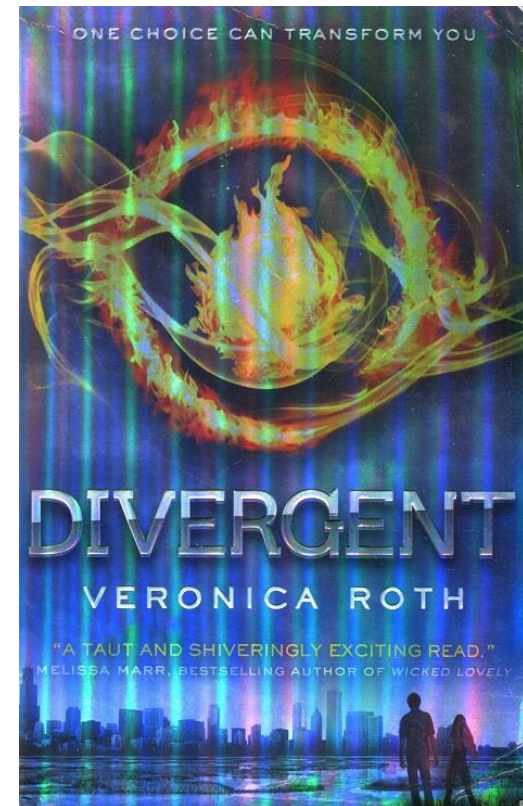


Working with blurbs

Writing

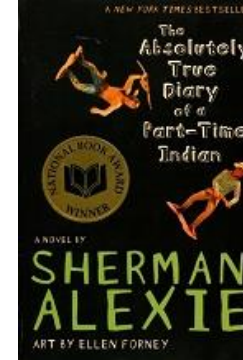
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Beatrice Prior is sixteen years old. She lives with her family in the faction of Abnegation. Everyone's selfless there, but Beatrice feels like she doesn't fit in. The Choosing Ceremony is coming up and every sixteen year old has got to choose which faction they want to live the rest of their lives in: Abnegation, Erudite, Amity, Candor or Dauntless. What will Beatrice choose to do? One thing's for sure: her life will never be the same again.



Getting ready to write

From blurbs to beginnings



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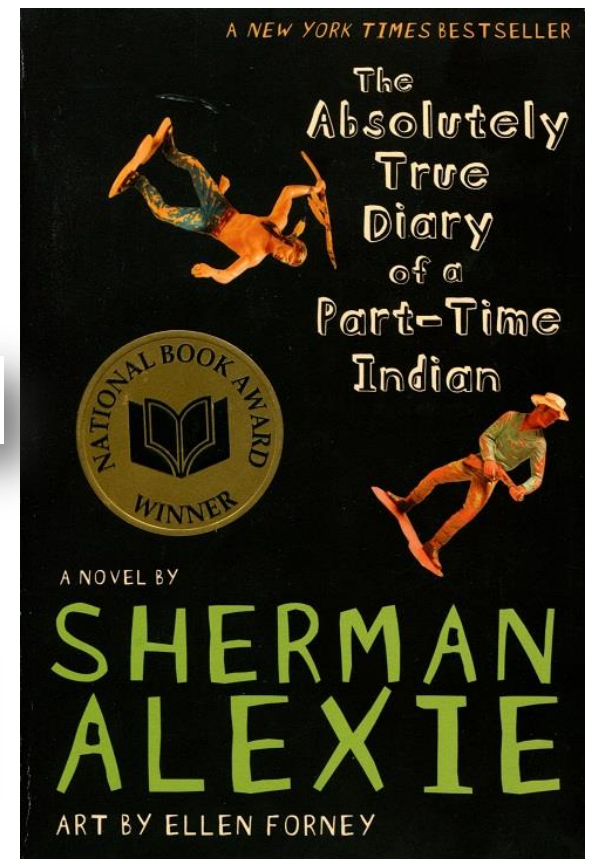
Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian reservation. Born with a variety of medical problems, he is picked on by everyone but his best friend. Determined to receive a good education, Junior leaves the rez to attend an all-white school in the neighboring farm town where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite being condemned as a traitor to his people and enduring great tragedies, Junior attacks life with wit and humor and discovers a strength inside of himself that he never knew existed.

Inspired by his own experiences growing up, award-winning author Sherman Alexie chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one unlucky boy trying to rise above the life everyone expects him to live.



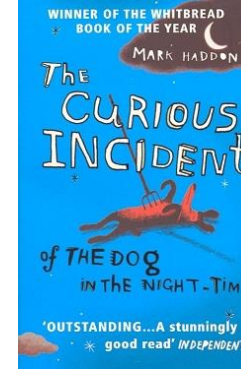
First lines

- A** I woke up at 7 am in the morning
- B** It's the first day of school today.
- C** I was born with water on the brain.
- D** My name is Junior and I'm Indian.
- E** Today was the worst day of my life.



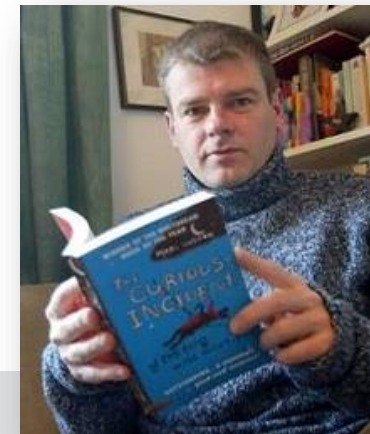
The Curious Incident

of the Dog in the Night-Time



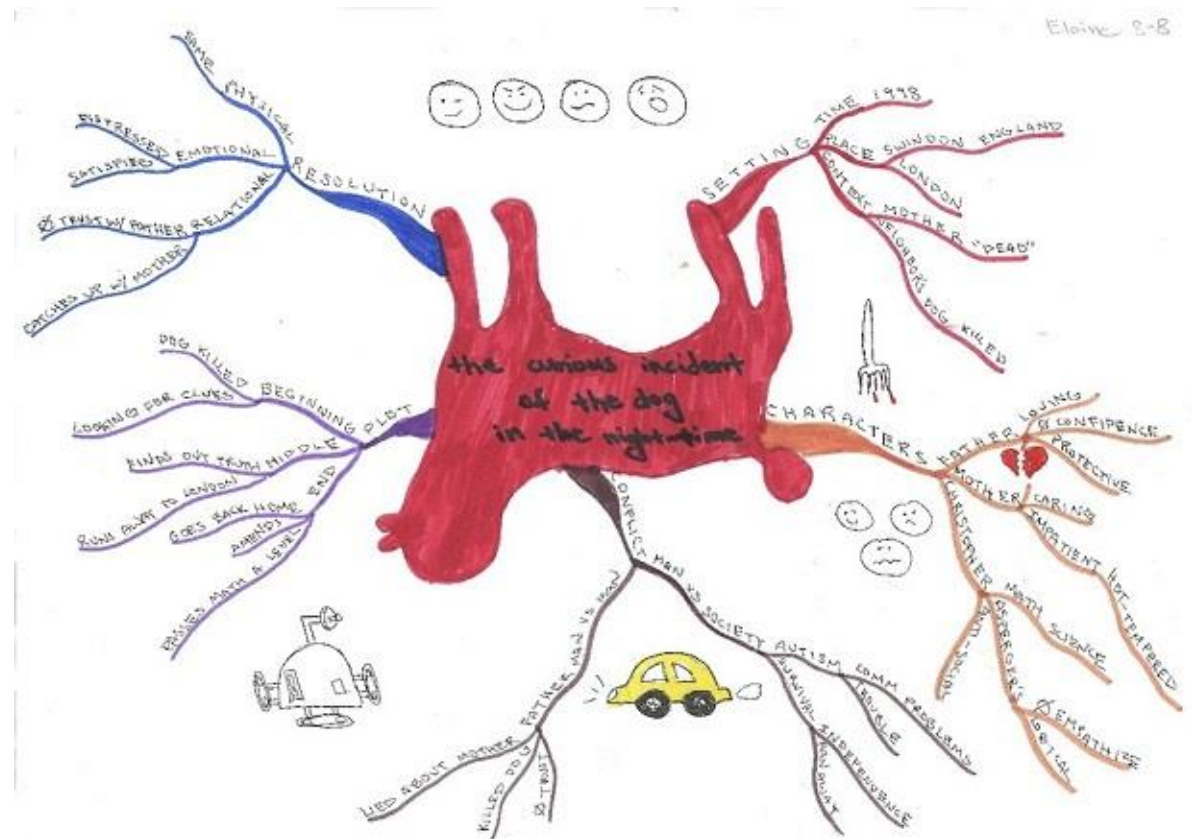
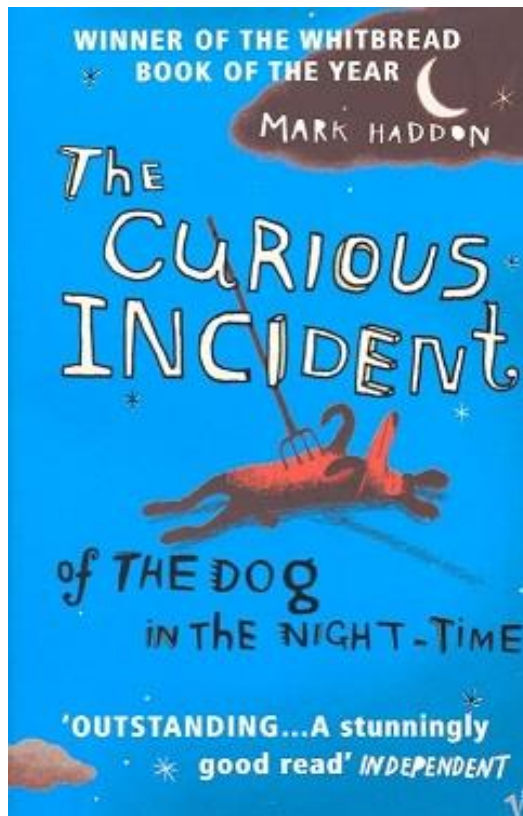
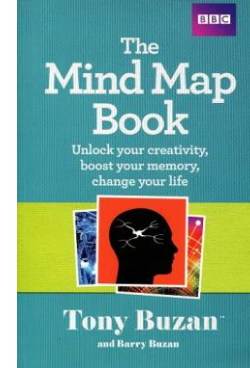
"It's not just a book about disability... it's a book about books, about what you can do with words and what it means to communicate with someone in a book...If you met [Christopher] in real life you'd never, ever get inside his head. Yet something magical happens when you write a novel about him. You slip inside his head, and it seems like the most natural thing in the world."

Mark Haddon



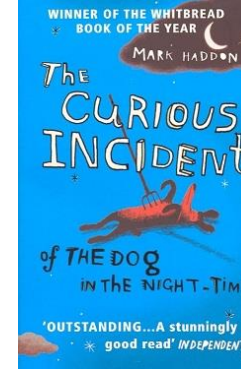
Responding to books

Mind maps



Responding to books

Reviews



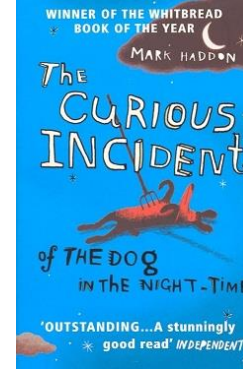
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1. a short summary of the plot

The curious incident of the dog in the night-time is a murder mystery novel by Mark Haddon. The narrator and the main character is Christopher Boone who has Asperger's Syndrome. He's very good in Maths, but knows nothing about human relationships. This book tells his adventures, which start with a dead dog.

Responding to books

Reviews



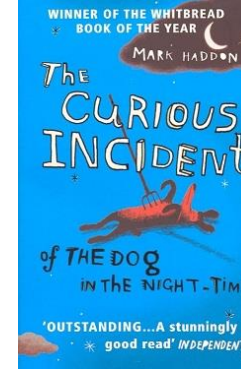
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2. focus on one interesting scene

My favourite scene of the book is when he explains why the colours of the cars make his day bad or good. I like when he says an example for it: ^{when} some people come out of the house ^{in the morning} and if the sun is shining, they feel good and happy but if it's raining they feel sad, just ^{be}cause of the weather. When I first read about the cars I thought that it isn't logical but when he wrote this example I could really understand it and I didn't find it so weird like at the first time. This part made me feel much more interested about this very clever and smart guy.

Responding to books

Reviews



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3. give your opinion of the book

I liked the last pages of the book very much, because it was cute. Christopher is brave, he got an A grade for his Maths A level, he solved the mystery of 'Who killed Wellington?' and he wrote a book. That meant ~~that~~ he can do anything. The book wasn't my favourite, but it was okay and it was the most weird book, I've ever read. There were moments when I thought this boy is crazy, but sometimes I thought he's a genius. It was interesting, reading about an autistic boy.

Describing a book

Responding to prompts

- It was written by...
- It's set in ...
- It's the story of ...
- The main character is...
- In the end...

**3 Complete the text about *The Lord of the Rings*.
Use the phrases from exercise 2.**

***The Lord of the Rings* is a fantasy story.**

¹ It was written by J. R. R. Tolkien.
² It's set in an imaginary
land called 'Middle Earth', and ³ it's the story of
a group of hobbits who have to destroy a
magic ring. ⁴ The main character is
called Frodo. ⁵ In the end,
they succeed in destroying the ring. A
few years ago ⁶ a film was made of the book
starring Orlando Bloom. It's a great book
and ⁷ I would definitely recommend it !

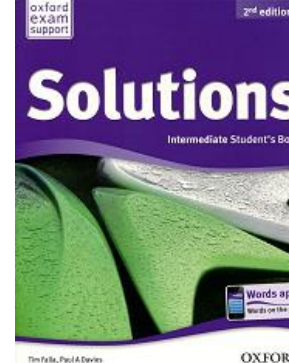
See next answer

See all answers

Hide all answers

Areas of difficulty

Using appropriate language



10G
WRITING
Book review

I can write a review of a book.

1 Read the review. Are these sentences true or false?

- The setting for the story is a beautiful lake.
- Stanley shouldn't be in a detention centre.
- The Warden has a secret reason for asking the boys to dig holes.

HOLES

is a novel for teenagers. It was written by Louis Sachar and it was published in 1998. It's an adventure story about a group of boys at a detention centre in Texas. The detention centre is called Camp Green Lake and it's in the middle of a huge desert.

The main character is Stanley Yelnats, who has been sent to Camp Green Lake for a crime he didn't commit. Every day, the boys at the camp have to dig holes in the desert. They believe that the work is just punishment. What they don't realise is that the Warden at Camp Green Lake is secretly looking for treasure. One day Stanley and his friend Zero run away. Everybody thinks they will die in the desert. I won't give the ending away! What I will say is that the book keeps your interest right to the final page.

I really enjoyed the book for a number of reasons. I identified with the character of Stanley, who always tries to help his friend. The setting is interesting and unusual. But what I liked most was the plot. It's a gripping story and you just can't put the book down. I would definitely recommend it.

2 How many phrases from the box can you find in the review?

Talking about stories

I identified with (a character) It's the story of ...

I liked the book because ... In the end, ...

The main character is (name) A film was made (of the book)

It was written by (author) There's a twist at the end.

It's a (type of story) I would definitely recommend it

It's set in (place)

3 Complete the text about *The Lord of the Rings*. Use the phrases from exercise 2.

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy story. ¹ _____

J. R. R. Tolkien. ² _____ an imaginary land called 'Middle Earth', and ³ _____ a group of hobbits who have to destroy a magic ring. ⁴ _____ called Frodo. ⁵ _____ they succeed in destroying the ring. A few years ago ⁶ _____ starring Orlando Bloom. It's a great book and ⁷ _____!

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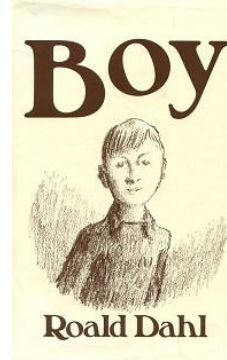
Sickness and cure

Type of sickness:



Cure:





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I WAS HOMESICK during the whole of my first term at St Peter's. Homesickness is a bit like seasickness. You don't know how awful it is till you get it, and when you do, it hits you right in the top of the stomach and you want to die. The only comfort is that both homesickness and seasickness are instantly curable. The first goes away the moment you walk out of the school grounds and the second is forgotten as soon as the ship enters port.

Focusing on accuracy

Dictogloss

- Remove the text from view
- Dictate it quite slowly
- Students listen and take notes
- Repeat it
- Students try to re-construct the text from their notes
- Compare with the original

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Describing sickness

Senses poem

Do you ever feel homesick or seasick? How does it feel?

Write a senses poem.

When I am homesick,

I see...

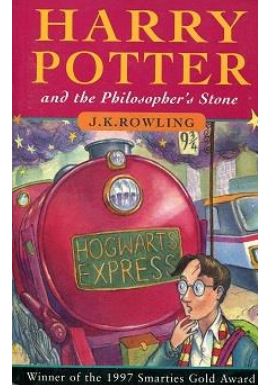
I hear...

I smell...

I taste...

I feel...





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‘I had a dream about a motorbike,’ said Harry, remembering suddenly. ‘It was flying.’

Uncle Vernon nearly crashed into the car in front. He turned right around in his seat and yelled at Harry, his face like a gigantic beetroot with a moustache, ‘MOTORBIKES DON’T FLY!’

Dudley and Piers sniggered.

‘I know they don’t,’ said Harry. ‘It was only a dream.’

Translate from English into L1

wait

Translate back from L1 into English



But Alice was a careful girl. ‘It can be dangerous to drink out of strange bottles,’ she said. ‘What will it do to me?’ She drank a little bit very slowly. The taste was very [red], like [purple] and [grey] and hot sweet [yellow], and very soon Alice [blue]

[blue].

Developing awareness

Other ways to use this text?



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Round the neck of the bottle was a piece of paper with the words DRINK ME in large letters.

Sandwiching

But Alice was a careful girl. ‘It can be dangerous to drink out of strange bottles,’ she said. ‘What will it do to me?’ She drank a little bit very slowly. The taste was very nice, like chocolate and oranges and hot sweet coffee, and very soon Alice finished the bottle.

‘What a strange feeling!’ said Alice. ‘I think I’m getting smaller and smaller every second.’

Espresso stories

No more than 25 words

'The Dinosaur' by Augusto Monterroso

When he woke up, the dinosaur was still there.



Espresso stories online

<http://espressostories.com/>

'Bleeding Edge' by Chris Williams

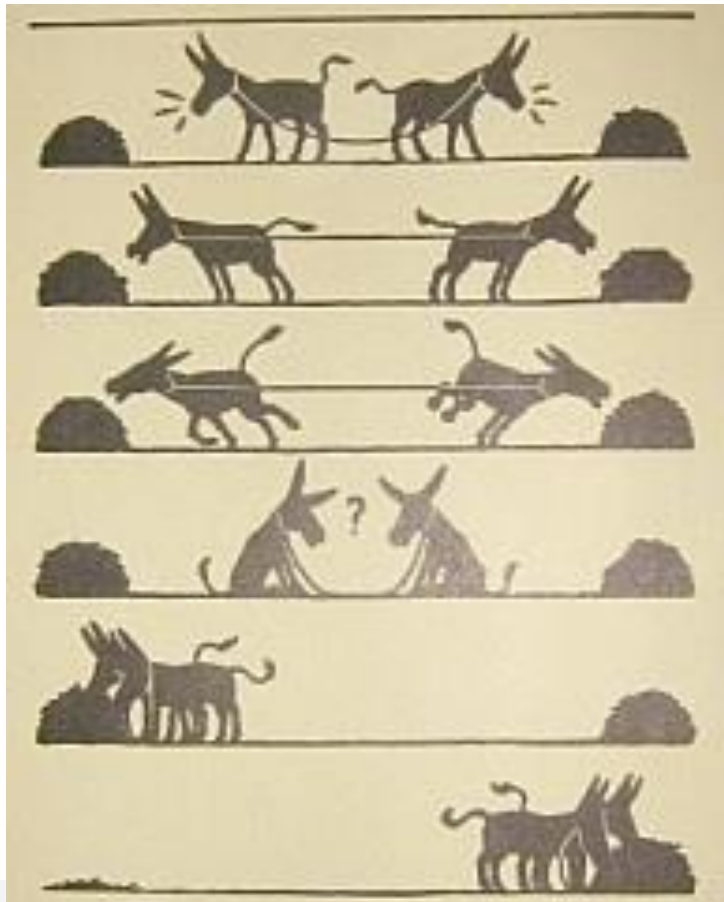
It was all over. It came down to who had the quickest fingers.

'This is Ned' by Zac Petrich

Ned reached out and touched Cynthia's beautiful face. It made his hand cold so he

From picture to poem

Haiku



- A *haiku* is a short poem that has:
- three lines
 - 17 syllables in total (e.g. 5-7-5)

If we want to eat
We have to sit down and think
And work together

- A Martian Sends a Postcard Home
- The Lost Generation