

Lesson 1

Sir Walter Scott (1771- 1832) (introduction)

Thursday 4th March is World Book Day this year, and is a great opportunity to look at the books and stories we all enjoy so much, to share our favourite books with each other and learn about new authors and stories.

I know everyone in my English group loves reading, and I have a great selection of books waiting to share when we all return to school.

We are starting this week by looking at the man who introduced the idea of 'reading' to the people of Scotland and made reading books and stories a popular thing to do. He wrote many stories which are set in the past, making historical stories a new idea in his books. **Walter Scott** made Scotland sound such an exciting place to visit that people wanted to come there on holiday. He introduced all the things we usually think about when we think of Scotland: kilts, tartan, marching bands, playing bagpipes and highland dancing.

I have included some information about Walter Scott for the children to read and answer some questions. Perhaps they could find a picture of the Walter Scott memorial in Edinburgh?

Many of the questions ask the children to say why they **think** something has happened etc (a standing joke in our English group is that the answer is NOT because" it tells me in the writing").

The answers are therefore not immediately apparent in the text, and the children have to understand what they have just read in order to think about it. This is an important skill when understanding anything we read.

Sir Walter Scott

Walter Scott was a Scottish historian, author, storyteller, poet and playwright. He loved books and had a huge library of them in his house. He wrote many books including: 'The lady of the Lake', 'Waverley', and 'Ivanhoe'. He wanted people to enjoy his books and make them think and ask questions. Many of his stories were set in the past, and were about events that had already happened in history.

Walter Scott was born in the city of Edinburgh. He became ill so he went to live with his grandparents in the Borders where he could recover. While he was living with his grandparents he was taught to read and heard lots of traditional stories and legends from the Borders area of Scotland. This made him want to become a writer himself when he grew up.

Lots of people read the stories, poems and plays that Walter Scott wrote, and wanted to visit Scotland to see all the places that he had written about it. They came to see all things Scottish and loved the tartan patterns, kilts and bagpipe players.

Visitors to Edinburgh may even have got off the train at Waverley train station. When you go to Edinburgh today you will see a tall monument called Scott's Monument.

1. What do you **think** a historian is?
2. Walter Scott was a historian. How did he show this in his books?
3. Where do you **think** the Borders might be?
4. Why do you **think** people wanted to visit Scotland after reading Walter Scott's books?
5. Why do you **think** the railway station in Edinburgh is called Waverley?
6. Why do you **think** there is a big monument to Walter Scott in Edinburgh?

Lesson 2

Greyfriars Bobby

Many good books have a **blurb** that gives a short summary about the story and makes you want to read it. It is like the 'hook' we wrote for our instruction writing before half term, and maybe includes questions or short sentences with exclamation marks. Authors write blurbs because they want to show how exciting and interesting their book or story is.

Books can also include great pictures to **illustrate** the stories. The **illustrations** make you want to read the story too!

- Read the following Scottish story about a little dog called Bobby who lived in Edinburgh many years ago.
- Please write a short blurb to encourage other people to come and read the story too. Remember that you mustn't tell the whole story again. You must write just enough to get others keen to read the story for themselves.
- Next illustrate your favourite part of the story. You may want to draw just one big picture, or maybe choose a few scenes you like best and draw smaller pictures.

Greyfriars Bobby



About one hundred and seventy years ago a gardener called John Gray arrived in Edinburgh. John was unable to find work as a gardener so he joined the Edinburgh Police Force as a night watchman. This meant he walked round the streets of Edinburgh at night time to make sure everybody was safe. To keep him company through the long winter nights John took on a partner, a little Skye terrier dog called Bobby. Together John and Bobby became a familiar sight trudging through the old cobbled streets of Edinburgh. Through thick and thin, winter and summer, they were faithful friends.

Sadly, after years of walking through the streets, John became ill and died. He was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard. Bobby the dog refused to leave his master's grave and stayed there even in bad weather. The gardener of the churchyard couldn't make the little dog move so he made him a little bed next to the grave. Every day, at one o'clock, a gun would fire from Edinburgh Castle and this was the time that Bobby would leave the grave and go have his

midday meal at the same coffee shop he used to go to with his master John Gray. The kind folk of Edinburgh looked after Bobby, and made sure he had enough food and blankets to keep him warm. Bobby never left his master's grave until the day he died.

Greyfriars Bobby is remembered by everyone because he was so faithful and loyal to his master. You can see a statue of him near the churchyard at Greyfriars church. His nose is very shiny because lots of people like to give it a rub and a pat as they walk past. You can also hear the one o'clock gun fire every day from Edinburgh castle.

Perhaps one day you will visit Edinburgh, listen to the one o'clock gun at the castle and give the statue of Greyfriars Bobby a little pat!



Lesson 4

The Lonely Journey of Betty Mouat

Many good books have a **blurb** that gives a short summary about the story and makes you want to read it. It is like the 'hook' we wrote for our instruction writing before half term, and maybe includes questions or short sentences with exclamation marks. Authors write blurbs because they want to show how exciting and interesting their book or story is.

Books can also include great pictures to **illustrate** the stories. The **illustrations** make you want to read the story too!

- Read the following Scottish story about a lady called Betty Mouat who lived on the Shetland Isles many years ago.
- Please write a short blurb to encourage other people to come and read the story too. Remember that you mustn't tell the whole story again. You must write just enough to get others keen to read the story for themselves.
- Next illustrate your favourite part of the story. You may want to draw just one big picture, or maybe choose a few scenes you like best and draw smaller pictures.



The lonely journey of Betty Mouat

One hundred and thirty-six years ago, Betty Mouat lived in the southern most part of the Shetland Isles, one of the seven hundred islands to be found in Scotland. During the daytime she used to grow vegetables and load peat for the fire into carts, and in the long, cold winter evenings she would knit fine warm shawls, gloves and scarves. Poor Betty walked slowly as she had a limp. One cold January day, Betty decided to travel to Lerwick, the capital town of the Shetland Isles, to visit the doctor and to see her niece. Betty could have walked the twenty-four miles, but she decided to go by boat as it was easier with her bad leg. The boat was called 'The Columbine' and Betty was the only passenger that day. Armed with a bottle of milk and two biscuits, Betty set off on a journey which was only supposed to take about three hours. Disaster struck when 'The Columbine' hit heavy seas causing the captain, James Jamieson, to fall overboard. The remaining crew tried to save him but they were washed away too. Betty was below deck and she had no idea what had happened. She found herself all alone on the boat drifting further and further away from Shetland.

For nine days Betty drifted across the North Sea, facing fierce storms and with only her milk and two biscuits to keep her going. Eventually 'The Columbine' was washed ashore on a beach in Norway where everybody was surprised and pleased to see her. Her story was written in the newspapers, and even Queen Victoria heard about it from London.

Betty Mouat went back to her home on Shetland and lived there happily until the age of 93. She probably did not travel on a boat again!

Perhaps one day you will visit the bay where Betty Mouat's boat came ashore in Norway. It is called Columbine Bay.

Why do you think it is called this?



Columbine Bay

