Writing Project

Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare

illustrated by Becca Stadtlander

NEWSPAPER WRITING

Cleopatra was a very well-known figure during her lifetime and people across the Roman Empire would have heard about her actions. When she died, news of the shocking event would have spread quickly. We can use the information from the text to write a newspaper report telling everyone about Cleopatra's tragic death.

The facts

Newspaper reports always answer five key questions – 5 Ws:

- Who is the report about?
- What happened?
- When did it happen?
- Where did it happen?
- Why did it happen?



Read through the text again. Find the information to answer each of the questions and record your answers below.

Who? .....

What? .....

When? (News reports are usually written the day after) .....

Where? .....

Why? .....

PLANNING YOUR REPORT

Now you have the facts, you need to think of a snappy headline! Don't make it too long and you could use alliteration, rhyme or a pun to make it really stand out, like these examples:

Antony Abandons Army

Here we 'Ro' again

Roman showman reports shocking omen

Once you have your headline, think about how you are going to organise the rest of your report. On the next page is a suggestion for how to structure it.

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Children's Shakespeare Book Club

Writing Project

Newspaper Name:

Headline:

Reporter's Name:

Introduction - Give an outline of the story using the 5 Ws.

Paragraphs - Write the main events in chronological order. Each event should be its own paragraph.

Conclusion - What might happen next to the Roman/Egyptian alliance?

NEWSPAPER REPORT WRITING TIPS

- Write in past tense.
- Write in the third person.
- Use formal language.
- Include pictures with captions.
- Add direct and reported quotes from people involved in the events.
- Write the facts not emotions.
- Don't make your paragraphs too long.
- Use fronted adverbials of time.

KEY PHRASES

- It has been reported that...
- ...believed to be...
- Witnesses claim that...
- It remains to be seen if...
- It is not yet known whether...
- According to sources...



Editing and evaluating your work

Authors always check and change their writing many times before they are happy with it, so that it is the best it can be.

Read through your first draft and see if you can make it better.

You could try reading it aloud to a friend to see if it makes sense to them.

Write a second draft that keeps your favourite bits and where you add in new bits.

CHECKS YOU CAN MAKE

- Have you used the same tense throughout?
- Have you proofread for spelling and punctuation errors?
- Have you used a range of words and not repeated the same word too often?

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