Lesson plan 15.1

Lesson plan to develop students’ awareness of an open-ended text

**Time/length:** 60 minutes

**Topic/focus:** Open-ended texts

**Subject:** English

**Year Level:** 7

**Context:** Part of a unit on reading processes

EQUIPMENT/RESOURCES

Copy of the poem ‘Flannan Isle by W. W. Gibson

Photo of Flannan Isle lighthouse

SYLLABUS OBJECTIVES

Identify and explore ideas and viewpoints about events, issues and characters represented in texts drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts (ACELT1619)

LESSON OUTCOME

* Understand the concept of open-ended texts

ASSESSMENT OF LESSON OUTCOMES

* Written activity

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| Time | Procedure |
| **10 minutes** | **Engagement**   * Tell students the story of the Mary Celeste and ask students to suggest possible solutions to the mystery. * Draw on speculation from Wikipedia if necessary as prompts. * Make the point that in real life there are mysteries which are never adequately solved or where we can never be certain of the solution to the mystery. This is also true of many stories. * We are going to read a poem about another mystery where we are not told the solution. We will have to come up with our own solution based on the evidence available to us in the poem. |
| **5 minutes** | **Scaffolding the reading**  **Scaffold background knowledge**  Show photo of Flannan Isle lighthouse on screen. Flannan Isle is a real island off the coast of Scotland. The poem is based on events which occurred on 26 December 1900 when the three lighthouse keepers were discovered to be missing and a search party was sent to the island.  **Scaffold reading purpose**  Ask students to mentally note any things they are told which could be used to offer a solution to the mystery. |
| **5 minutes** | **Reading the text**  **Explicit teaching**  Reiterate that the poem leaves it up to us to decide what might have happened to the men. |
| **5 minutes** | **Exploration**  Ask students to list parts of the poem which might be used as possible clues to what happened to the men.  Students share ideas. |
| **15 minutes** | **Application**  Ask students to write a detailed explanation for what might have happened to the lighthouse keepers. Students have a choice: they can decide on one solution and write a narrative describing what happened or they can write an explanation discussing a number of possibilities. |
| **10 minutes** | **Share the results**  Volunteers read their work aloud to the class. |
| **5–10 minutes** | **Review**  Point out that students have learnt that not all stories or poems offer solutions to the mysteries they present; some leave it up to the reader to decide on possible solutions. Such stories are called open-ended. Maybe these stories are more like real life, where we do not always definitely know the solution to every mystery we encounter (students might be able to suggest examples here). While such stories can sometimes be frustrating because we never know the answer for sure, they can also be enjoyable because they leave us wondering. |