Winter Wonderland

Learning objectives

• Recount an experience in an organized manner using appropriate, relevant facts and descriptive detail.
• Choose words, phrases, dialects, and punctuation that add expression and effect.
• Write an opinion piece with reasons, information, and evidence from the text, supporting one point of view.
• Distinguish between formal and informal language used by characters.
• Construct correct verb tense when writing and speaking.
• Create dialogue around experiences, events, and the characters’ responses to given situations.
• Describe how a person’s point of view can influence reactions, events, comprehension, and narrative.

Setting the scene

“At last it has stopped snowing! The town’s streets and parks are covered by a thick layer of snow. It’s time to put away the basketballs and soccer balls!”

“But what on earth will the town’s sports-loving children do during the winter?”

“They’ve all seen the Winter Olympics on television. What can the children do to bring the Winter Olympics to their hometown?”

Building the story

Ask the students to build their very own backyard Winter Olympics challenge.

• How will you make it look wintery and cold?
• How will you equip your winter sports stars?
• Will it be a competition? Will there be a commentator?

Reflecting

Have the students reflect and talk about each of their characters as they build. What are they doing? What are they saying? How do they feel?

• How do they focus and concentrate?
• Are they competing with other characters?
• Is it a ski event?
• What do you normally see at a ski event?
• Are all of the safety aspects taken into account?
Sharing and documenting
Ask the students to use the StoryVisualizer software to portray the Winter Olympics as seen from different viewpoints. Have them tell their stories to an audience.

Suggestions for scripts:

Commentator: “It’s a beautiful, crisp, cold morning here at the downtown ski jump . . . and now over to the starters.”

Starter: “Red ski, are you ready? Blue ski, are you ready?”

Red and blue ski: “All slippery and ready to go, sir!”


Sample solution

Extending
• Add a TV reporter. Imagine he's reporting on current events. Would a reporter speak in the same way as the other characters? What will he focus on specifically?

• Winter sports are full of thrills and spills. What sort of funny accident happens in your event? Build it and perform it.

• Can you invent a totally unique winter sport event that is both funny and exciting? Invent your own rules and tell the world!