



Year 7 Short Stories

‘eric’
Shaun Tan
Lesson 1

Lesson Focus

- To explore the importance of story telling and why we tell stories to each other.
- To develop our vocabulary and understanding of words and meaning.
- To read the short story 'eric' by Shaun Tan and to know the key characters, setting and events within the story.

Lesson Outline

Activate



Activate: exploring key words and their meanings and connotations

Explain



Explain: Read the story and respond to key questions

Practise



Practice: Looking again at the story and how pictures help our understanding Focus on some of the key vocabulary check our knowledge and develop our vocabulary.

Reflect



Reflect: Comprehension exercise checking our understanding of the whole text.

Review



Review: checking our vocabulary



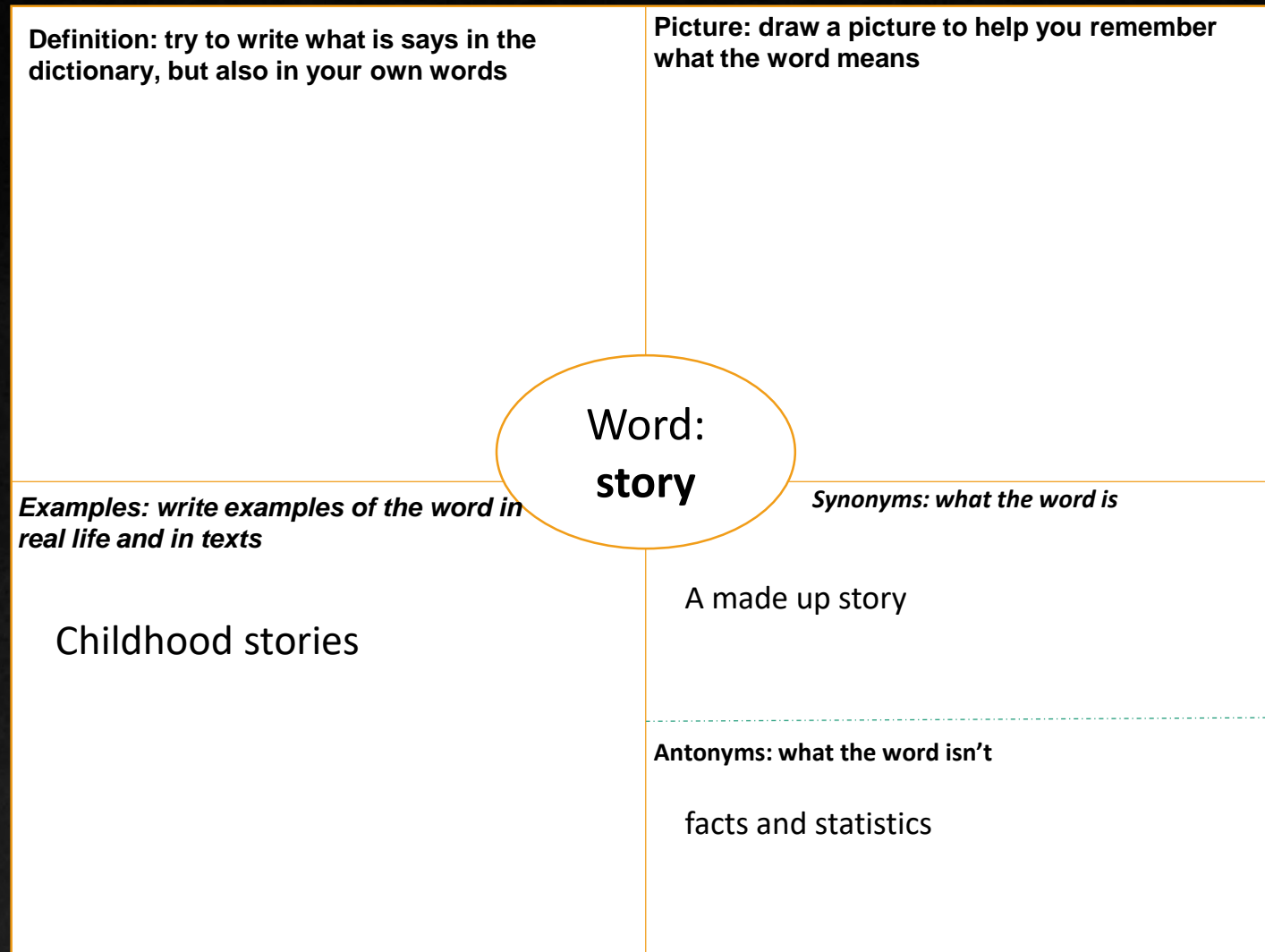
- Use the Frayer diagram to explore the meaning of the word 'Story'
- If you haven't heard of a Frayer diagram let 's just pause and think about what it is?
- It is a straightforward way of breaking down a word, thinking of its meaning and thinking about the synonyms and antonyms for that word. What it is like and what is not like.
- Have a go on your own ; then you may want to build your ideas by using a dictionary or google on your phone; you may want to ask an adult in your household what they think about when they think about 'a story.'

Key word:

Story



You have 10 minutes
to complete the task



Statements	Rank the statements in the order you think is the most important (1= the most important and 7= least important)	Choose 3 of the statements and explain why you think they are important. You could use examples from your own experience to show this.
After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world. Philip Pullman		
Stories are a way of escaping from the problems of real life. We owe it to each other to tell stories. Neil Gaiman		
We tell stories to find out about lives different from our own.		
Stories are a different kind of true. Emma Donoghue		
Stories are a way for people to think about life's important issues.		
Stories help us to explore emotions in a safe environment.		
Stories are entertaining and fun to read.		

Read the statements about stories.
Rank the statements in the order of what you consider the most important (1 being the top)

Choose 3 statements and explain why you think they are important. Can you use evidence from your own experiences to prove your points?

(10 minutes)

- We are ready to read the story;
- You will need approximately 10 minutes for this activity. There is a recording if you would like to listen to it.



- If you have finished then you can read it again and begin thinking about the narrator and the main character, Eric.



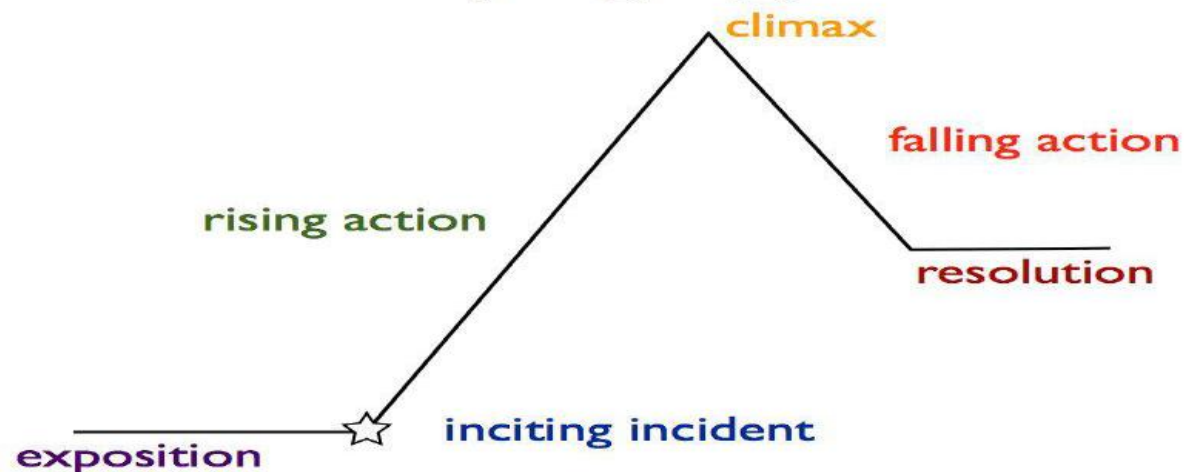
'eric' Sean Tan

Why do you think the character's name is written in lower case for the title?

What message do you think the author wants to give the reader about this character?



freytag's pyramid



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqQtkuQz_GY

- The story follows a simple structure which is shown above. Most stories follow this structure and we will return to this later on in our learning journey. Watch the video clip as it explains the structure. Can you identify ...
- What are the conflicts in the story which lead to the climax?
- What is the turning point or climax ?
- What would you identify as the falling action – what do people do after the surprising event?
- Which part of the story is the resolution- do you think things have changed for the narrator and his family?

(10 minutes)

1. Do the pictures help us understand the story?

2. Do we need words to help us with this story or could we work things out with out the words?

3. Do the pictures help us to imagine the events more effectively?

Activity:

In the story the writer says that Eric asked lots of questions and we are going given the pictures. What words would you put with the picture?



Have you ever thought about stories with pictures?



Key Words (Colour code using the colours opposite)	Meaning
Foreign exchange	
pantry	
cultural	
expert	
curious	
excursions	
exasperated	
bewildered	
speculation	
unresolved	
thriving	

Key words from the short story 'eric' Sean Tan.



Colour code the words and for those you do not know find the meaning.

Which words do you know?

Which words have you heard but you are not sure about?

Which words have you never heard before and do not know.

(15 minutes
- you may need more time and you can go back later.)



From the story answer the following questions in full sentences and using any evidence from the text to support your views.

Who do you think Eric is?(The picture may help you think about him)



Who is telling the story?

Why was the family bewildered when Eric left their home?

Why do you think Eric left ?



Describe what the family saw when they opened the pantry door?



Reflect



The questions will help you clarify in your mind the key points of the story.

(10 minutes)