

All fall down

Explore cause and effect to inspire narrative writing

Great for...

- **Language and literacy** composition
- **Science** cause and effect
- **Design and technology**

Activity

- 1** Take the children outside and ask them to look around and see what large supporting structures they can see in the school grounds and in the landscape beyond. Hopefully they will identify the school building, fence or gate posts, television aerial poles, tall chimney stacks, mobile phone masts, lamp-posts, pylons, etc. Write these on to small pieces of paper as they say them and put the paper into a container.
- 2** Working in pairs, allocate each an item by getting them to take a piece of paper from the container. They need to take a photograph of that item and talk together about what would happen if that structure collapsed. What would the impact be?
- 3** Get each pair to feed back to the group. Help them to tease out any impacts that they may have missed – for example, if the fence post was not there then, yes the fence would fall down but also the sign fixed to the fence would fall down and so people would not know where they were going etc.
- 4** Get them to write their ideas down as a flowing paragraph, using a variety of connective words for each event. For example: 'When the chimney fell down it made a hole in the roof. Then everyone could see the sky. But the next day it rained and everyone got wet. So, the following day, we all had to wear our raincoats.'

What you need

- **Digital camera**
- **Strips of paper, pen and container**
- **Pencils and clipboards**

Preparation

- Read simple stories together and look at how connective words are used to move the narrative along.

Less challenging

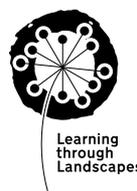
- Instead of having to write down their thoughts, the children could use a video camera to record the object and their thoughts about what would happen next if it collapsed.

More challenging

- Encourage the children in small groups to create a short performance highlighting what would happen if their item fell down, focusing not just on the immediate impact but on the knock-on effects as well.
- Get the children to print off their pictures and put their story under each picture for display.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity



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