Aims:

• Pupils are given the opportunity to explore one of the series of books to gather evidence as to why their book is the ‘best’ in the series. This will involve a range of activities including: character and text analysis, summarizing of key events and completion of writing response tasks.

• These findings will then be used to promote their given text through the production of campaign materials such as posters, cartoons and video clips. They will also be asked to present their materials in order to persuade others that their given book is superior to the others in the series.

• A simple vote will conclude the activities, with an opportunity to explore voting systems and processes. Produce a selection of promotional materials to highlight the best aspects of the book. As the books are part of a series and therefore the style and characters remain the same, explain that these materials will focus on the books’ best bits. Activities include: producing a mini comic strip book of the highlights, posters to persuade and mini video clips of a favourite scene.

Procedure:

• Spark up a debate – why is their book the best? Present ideas as to what makes their book the best as a discussion, stating their opinions and arguing against the views of others in a reasoned way.

Resources:

Comic strip template
Election posters
Propastic movie clips
Speech writing
Debating
Greg is a top cartoonist, as can be seen from his hilarious cartoon ‘Zoo-wee mama’ (don’t believe Rowley when he says he wrote it!) and Creighton the Cretin. Here are some top tips for writing a comic strip to help you become an expert too!

Top tips for writing a comic!
• Practise drawing people, animals, backgrounds and props as simple outline drawings – take a look at some of Greg’s.

• Make a rough copy of your comic first – a rough copy is a basic version of your comic, using stick figures or quick drawings. Choose your favourite bit from your Wimpy Kid book to breakdown into a series of simple events.

• Use speech bubbles and simple link boxes to retell events.

• Give your comic strip a catchy title based on the main event.

• Make a good copy of your comic – a good copy is the real version of your comic, with all the detail and colour completed. You can scan your comic into your computer and colour it in if you are computer savvy.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid

COMIC STRIP TEMPLATE

Comic strip – the rough copy!

Link boxes

Illustration boxes
Take a look at the school council election posters Greg and his dad made. Which do you think is best at persuading you to vote for each candidate?

INTEGRITY
HONESTY
KNOW-HOW

Do You Want
MARTY PORTER
to be your
TREASURER?

VOTE
Frank Heffley
FOR
SECRETARY

DARR...

HEY, YOU'RE
DROPPING ALL
OUR MONEY,
YOU FOOL!
Complete the grid below to see how Greg and his Dad’s posters measure up.
Mark both posters out of 10 using the grid below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information given</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tells the reader what the event is</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tells the reader where the event is</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tells the reader when the event is taking place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persuasive language features used</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses questions for the reader</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes opinions sound like facts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses powerful verbs and strong adjectives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses cause and effect connectives e.g. because, due to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dares the reader to disagree</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layout features</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses bold lettering to stand out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Includes interesting pictures</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has different size lettering for different pieces of information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Dad’s</th>
<th>Greg’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Which poster do you think is the most successful? Why?
### Planning your own poster

The aim of your poster is to persuade others that the Wimpy Kid book you have been given is the best!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think of a slogan for your campaign. Try using alliteration or a play on words to grab people’s attention.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask a question. Maybe even dare them to disagree, but be careful not to be rude - “Are you stupid?” doesn’t persuade people, it just insults them!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell them why your book is the best and exaggerate why they must vote for it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make it memorable. Tell them about your favourite event in the book.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell people when and where the vote will take place.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did you know that Greg and Rowley have starred in their own Hollywood blockbuster? Try making your own movie clip of your favourite bit of Greg’s diary!

How to create your own Wimpy Kid video clip
Choose from a variety of different props to help you to focus on your Wimpy Kid book ‘best bit’. Here are some suggestions to get you thinking:

• Playmobil figures and their often brilliant accessories can be used to recreate a scene. Lego figures are a useful alternative and Lego blocks are great for creating a diorama or stage.

• Vegetables or fruit can work surprisingly well in the role of key characters.

• Jelly babies or gummy bears are a useful low cost alternative, and can be easily transformed with the addition of drawn faces, plus you can eat the extras!

• Make stick or finger puppets with sugar paper or card and lolly sticks.

• Paper masks can be great for transforming you into different characters. You can create your own, or use a paper plate instead – simply cut in half, decorate and tape on a lolly stick or twig as a handle. Alternatively, print and cut out the character masks on the following pages.

• Character masks can really help you to transform into role. Use the Wimpy Kid character masks below and make like your favourite Wimpy Kid character.

• Modelling clay or even homemade playdough can be used to create different figures, scenes and props.
How to create your mask:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You’re now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid character. BOOH-YAH!
HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).

2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom for help.

3. You’re now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!
HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).

2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.

3. You’re now ready to make your favourite Wimpy Kid character. BOO-HAHAH!

© www.teachitprimary.co.uk 2014
© Wimpy Kid Inc
Diary of a Wimpy Kid

PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Greg’s Dad

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:
1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You’re now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!

© www.teachitprimary.co.uk 2014
© Wimpy Kid Inc
Become Fregley

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic behind your head or you could thread it through the holes and tie it for help.
3. You’re now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOO-HYAH!

© www.teachitprimary.co.uk 2014
© Wimpy Kid Inc
HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).

2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.

3. You’re now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOO-HA-HA!

© www.teachitprimary.co.uk 2014

© Wimpy Kid Inc
PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Manny

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).

2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.

3. You’re now ready to make the character Boo-H Yah!

© www.teachitprimary.co.uk 2014

© Wimpy Kid Inc

Page 15 of 18
Here are some top tips on how to write a good speech. I’m sure you’ve had lots of practice persuading people to come around to your way of thinking; trying to persuade teachers to let you out to play early or parents to let you stay up late, for example.

- Open with a punchy line to grab your audience’s attention.
- Think about who you’re talking to. If it’s your headteacher keep a serious tone but if it’s a group of friends it’s ok to crack a few jokes – comedy has always been a winning strategy for Greg!
- Sort out your ideas so you don’t jump from one point to another. Otherwise it could end up being a little bit random – you don’t want to end up sounding like Fregley. (There’s a handy planning grid below)
- Pull at your audience’s heart strings. Don’t beg, but stressing how vital it is can help.
- Asking questions can help persuade people to agree with you but word them carefully e.g. ‘Was that not the funniest thing you ever heard?’ rather than ‘Have you ever heard anything funnier?’
- Use interesting facts and figures to blow your listeners’ minds!
- Go out with a WOW (a weird or wonderful) fact – something they won’t forget for a while.

Planning grid: don’t write pages, just a few ideas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Audience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language – some good descriptive words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending WOW fact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stating your point of view
- Would you rather . . . or . . .?

Would you be a cat or a dog?
Would you travel by plane or boat?
Would you be tall or small?
Would you be noisy or quiet?
Would you rather read a book or watch a film?
Would you rather draw a picture or play a game?

A fun speaking and listening activity to spark a debate. Use the cards to encourage individuals to state their preference. Encourage the children to give an explanation for their choices.
I accept your point but . . .

I disagree for this reason . . .

You could be right but my evidence suggests otherwise . . .

You make a good point yet . . .

I’m afraid I can’t agree with that because . . .

With all due respect I feel that my point is stronger because . . .

I do accept your point of view, but I feel . . .

May I suggest this in response to that . . .

My point of view contrasts with yours in that . . .