These materials allow pupils to learn about story and character development in an irresistibly fun way by immersing them in the world of the Muppets. The online resources can form a discrete interactive Literacy / ICT project over a 3-5 week block, or they can be used as stand alone lessons in Literacy, ICT or Music for pupils between the ages of 5 and 11.

AGE RANGE:
5-11 years

PLANNED OUTCOMES:
An understanding of character development (MEET THE MUPPETS - ‘Sticky thinking Character activities’ and downloadable cards)
A clearer picture of dramatic conventions and fiction genres (LIGHT THE LIGHTS – ‘Clip, Pair, Share’ – close reading / clip analysis)
An appreciation of pitch, rhythm and how music creates mood (MAKE THE MUSIC – music appreciation activities)

SUGGESTED WEEK BY WEEK OVERVIEW (LITERACY, ICT, MUSIC):
Weeks 1 + 2 – MEET THE MUPPETS: Character development; Adventure and Mystery stories [Group Discussion and Interaction; Drama]
Weeks 3 + 4 – LIGHT THE LIGHTS: Film Narrative; Dramatic conventions; Fiction Genres
Week 5 – MAKE THE MUSIC: Fiction Genres; Painting with Sound; Exploring Lyrics and Melody
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<th>WHOLE CLASS ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>DIFFERENTIATED INDEPENDENT / GROUP ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PLENARY</th>
<th>SUCCESS CRITERIA CHILDREN WILL:</th>
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<td>MEET THE MUPPETS: <a href="http://www.filmeducation.org/themuppets/meetthemuppets.html">www.filmeducation.org/themuppets/meetthemuppets.html</a></td>
<td>Watch the trailer for <em>The Muppets</em>. Talk about the characters – human and otherwise. Read and discuss the descriptions for each character.</td>
<td>Easy: in adult-led small groups, discuss and record ideas in response to the ‘Muppet Meditations’ prompts to one or two of the key characters. Share ideas with the rest of the class. Medium / Hard: in pairs, choose one key character and work together to fully explore the ‘Muppet Meditations’ questions. Prepare presentations (Prezi, PowerPoint, filmed, hot seated or otherwise!) for each answer to showcase to the rest of the class. The character groups could work in rotation over a 2 to 3 week period.</td>
<td>Pupils to share their thoughts on their chosen characters for their colleagues to evaluate.</td>
<td>Use talk to organise their roles and action. Actively include and respond to all members of the group. Show an understanding of the character traits of their chosen Muppet. Identify and discuss qualities of others’ presentations.</td>
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<td>Online or Character ‘Sticky Thinking’ prompt PDF cards. Use the language of possibility to investigate and reflect on feelings, behaviour and relationships. Present characters through dialogue to engage the interest of an audience.</td>
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<td>LIGHT THE LIGHTS: <a href="www.filmeducation.org/themuppets/lightthelights.html">link</a></td>
<td>Watch and respond to The Muppet clips as a class.</td>
<td>Easy: children work in pairs or small groups to ‘read’ one of the clips, using the key words: LIGHTS (what is the lighting/colour like in the clip?), CAMERA (are there any interesting camera angles/movement?) and ACTION (what is happening and how does the camera help to tell the story?) to help them focus their ideas. Pause the clip at key moments, make notes and create a Screen-grab of the image and notes.</td>
<td>Share and evaluate their responses to the clips. Watch the clips together, pause at key moments and ask the question ‘why?’ – why is the camera here? Why are the characters in these positions etc…?</td>
<td>Identify and make notes of the main points of the clip sequence.</td>
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<td>‘Clip, Pair, Share’ – close reading / clip analysis.</td>
<td>Choose one clip and discuss it in ‘Film Language’ terms, using the Prompt questions provided (provide children with printed versions of these).</td>
<td>Medium: children work through one or two of the clips using the prompt questions supplied online. Pause the clip at key moments, make notes and create a Screen-grab of the image and notes.</td>
<td>Share ‘screen-grabbed’ images and notes. Children to share why they chose to pause the clip at that particular moment.</td>
<td>Infer characters’ feelings in logical explanations.</td>
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<td>Explore how film texts are organised.</td>
<td>Demonstrate how to pause a clip and add notes, then create a screen grab in order to save the work.</td>
<td>Hard: children watch, evaluate and compare all of the clips using the prompt questions provided online. Pause the clip at key moments, make notes and create a Screen-grab of the image and notes.</td>
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<td>Use film language terms, such as ‘lighting, camera angle and pace’. Identify how effective the film is in communicating with an audience.</td>
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## Objectives

**Make the Music:**  
[www.filmeducation.org/themuppets/makethemusic.html](http://www.filmeducation.org/themuppets/makethemusic.html)

1. Watch the two musical clips from *The Muppets*.
2. Scroll through film images and choose suitable film score musical accompaniment.

Explore thoughts and feelings through responding intellectually and emotionally to a variety of different kinds of music.

Identify how a piece of music uses pitch, timbre, duration, rhythm, tempo and dynamics to create mood.

Pass on ideas via email, presenting and exchanging information.

### Whole Class Activities

As a class, watch the two ‘Muppets Music’ clips and respond using the prompt questions.

### Differentiated Independent / Group Activities

Easy/Medium/Hard: In pairs / small groups, scroll through the images, then listen to each of the musical clips. Discuss the suitability of each music clip for each image.

Choose one of the images and send it to the teacher / friend / family member as an email.

### Plenary

Children to share their thoughts on the mood created by the music.

Children to explain choices made for the ‘email’ activity.

### Success Criteria

Children will:

Follow up others’ points and show whether they agree or disagree in a whole-class discussion.

Share and compare reasons for musical choices.

Use musical terminology such as ‘pitch, duration, rhythm’ to describe how musical mood is created on screen.