Writing lesson idea – ‘Whistleless’

Purpose
Explain that the purpose of this writing activity is to retell a narrative (story).

Lesson one - generating and organising ideas

Motivation and generating ideas
Ask the students if they can whistle? Let them have a try.

Watch the short film ‘Whistleless’ (Ladybird films, Director Siri Melchior)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MTzDPt03SI
N.B. If this link is broken, Google search: ‘Whistleless’ Ladybird films, Director Siri Melchior

Think, Pair, Share: Discuss the problem in the story.
Make a word list of the characters and the key words, e.g. whistle
Watch the movie again.
Students use the ‘dot to dot’ planning sheet to record the order of events. (See exemplar.)

Review and share the ‘dot to dot’ planners.

Lesson two - writing

Possible criteria (refer to pages 33-36 of The Writing Book for other ideas)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergent writers</th>
<th>Early and fluent writers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write a sentence about the bird</td>
<td>Use 3 descriptive adjectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include a feeling</td>
<td>Include 2 details from the adding details chart (PM23)</td>
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<td>(A.) Use capital letters and full stops</td>
<td><strong>Challenge:</strong> Include a complex sentence</td>
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Teacher modelled/shared writing
Model how to compose a sentence/sentences based on the criteria.

Independent writing
Students retell the story using the planning sheet as a prompt.

Self-check
Read your writing in a quiet voice.
Can you spot 2 mistakes?

Partner-check
I like ... because ...
Circle 3 descriptive adjectives (for early and fluent writers).

Wrap up
Celebrate the mistakes students have fixed up during the self-check. In small groups, students share their favourite sentence. Celebrate the students who have achieved the challenge.

Other ideas
The students could retell the story from one of the character’s perspectives.
Change the characters or the problem in the story.

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