

## Story party

**Level:** All

**Age:** 8-12

**Organization:** individual, whole class (mingling)

**Aims:** To ask for and give personal information in the role of a story character; to develop confidence in turn-taking and using familiar language.

**Language focus:** greetings, present simple, personal information, *like / don't like*, questions, opinions

**Materials:** *Essential:* story character cards (one for each child) e.g. Gruffalo, Goldilocks, Robinson Crusoe

### Procedure

Use this activity once children are familiar with lots of story characters, e.g. from the course book, picture books, graded readers or other sources.

1. Explain that the children are going to go to a 'party' in the role of a story character and meet different characters from other stories.
2. Give a story character card to each child and demonstrate and explain that they must keep this secret.
3. Ask them to invent and note some personal information for their character, e.g. their age, where they live, their family, sports or other things they like or don't like. Set a time limit for this, e.g. five minutes.
4. When they are ready, ask the children to stand up and go to the 'party' in role (without their notes) and try and meet and find out about as many characters as possible. Elicit the kinds of questions children will need to ask, e.g. *What's your name? Where do you live?* And demonstrate the activity with one or two children at the front of the class before they begin.
5. Stop the activity after the children have 'met' three or four other characters.
6. Ask individual children to take turns to report back on a character they met at the party and use this to establish all the characters who were there.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

- This activity can be made longer or shorter depending on the information you ask the children to exchange and find out at the 'party'. At the simplest level, children can just find out each other's names.
- If you feel it is necessary, you can say that the story characters only speak English and build in a rule that children should not say who they are or exchange information unless they are asked in English.
- If you do not want the children to walk round the classroom, they can remain seated and do the activity in pairs or groups.