

Subject

- Growing up in the NE 1950s-60s
- Where stories come from
- Becoming a writer
- Nostalgic element, fantastic element

Narrative features

- Autobiographical recount of development into a writer - sequential
- Interspersed with stories – non related /sequential
- Mix of first and third person narration
- Mix of real and fictional places and people
- Oral story telling written down

Literary features

- Story writing – mix of tenses, chronological linear accounts - stories within stories
- Autobiographical elements – past tense, snippets of personal history combined with thoughts and reflections
- Text structure is very controlled with each story having an explanation as to where the story originated

Language features

- Standard and non-standard English
- Poetic and figurative language
- Informal for the most part – chatty reflective style

Text type, purpose and intended readership

- Narrative, fantasy, autobiography
- To inform, amuse and entertain
- Older generation – to remind of own childhood experiences
- Younger generation – to impart wisdom regarding growing up and learning to be you

Vocabulary

- Local dialect – *aye, sez, ya knaa*
- Informal vocabulary *no truck with that, folks,*
- Rich, nuanced word choices

Coherence

- Quite challenging in places – lots of inference based work
- Autobiographical element - simpler

Theme

- Intergenerational relationships / family
- Growing up
- Friendship
- Loss
- Self-belief
- Dreaming your dreams
- Tolerance
- The wonder of you
- Overcoming prejudice
- Coming to know oneself

Half a Creature from the Sea

David Almond

Visual features

- Range of fonts
- Title fonts
- Images throughout the book
- Imagery on front cover

Historical, social, and cultural context

- Growing up in the NE 1950s-60s
- Recognisable settings



Making links to background knowledge and other texts

Text to text (see links on detailed plans)

- *Where My Wellies Take Me* by Claire and Michael Morpurgo
- *The Selkie Bride* by Tony Mitton
- *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- Other books by David Almond/local writers
- Autobiographies of writers

Text to self

- Knowledge of North East
- Stories from own family members re growing up
- Not knowing quite who / what you are

Text to world

- Knowledge of local history and 20thC history

Grammar; Syntax

- Sentence structure follows patterns of oral language
- Mix of simple and complex sentences
- Parenthesis used as asides
- North Eastern grammar structures

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