

Extracts: Audience

This activity will help you build on your understanding of writing for different age groups. Here are extracts from three pieces of writing for young readers. We'd like you to look at them, then decide what audience you think each is aimed at (e.g. very young children, nine- to twelve-year-olds, or teenagers). How can you tell? For example, you might put something like:

I think extract three is meant for a teenage audience. It looks at a relationship between a boy and a girl, it uses slang, and the character Sam sounds like a teenage boy talking.

1. This Little Piggy

Children's nursery rhyme

"This little piggy went to market,

This little piggy stayed home.

This little piggy had roast beef,

And this little piggy had none."

2. 'The Boy Who Called Across the River' from Sierra Leone

Clarke, W. R. E. "The Boy Who Called Across the River." In *A River of Stories*, compiled by Alice Curry, 26. London: Commonwealth Education Trust Books, 2011.

"Once upon a time there was a boy called Ndapi. One day his mother told him to go to the river and call his brother, who was on the other side. When Ndapi stood on the bank of the river and began calling his brother, he heard a voice on the other side calling in exactly the same way he had.

Now Ndapi was a proud boy and assumed that the other boy was making fun of him. He called out, "Who is mocking me over there?"

The voice replied, "Who is mocking me over there?"

Ndapi cried out, "You come over here and show yourself!"

And again the Voice came, "You come over here and show yourself!"

3. A story by David Hill

"I looked at the clock. I had just 30 minutes left. Thirty minutes to write a really cool Valentine's Day card for Lara Ackroyd. I looked at what I'd written on the paper: '**Happy Valentine's Day, Lara, From Sam.**' That is so totally useless, I thought."