


Activity 1: A Calendar of Tales by Neil Gaiman and you – 1

In 2013, Neil Gaiman started an experimental, multimedia storytelling project, sponsored by Blackberry. He began by asking twelve questions and inviting people to tweet their answers to them. Then he chose the best one in each case and wrote a short story based on it – writing all twelve stories in three days!

- 1 Go to the website <http://acalendaroftales.com/> and read the short story Neil wrote for December.
- 2 Did you like the story? Explain why, why not.
- 3 Summarise the story using your own words in a couple of sentences.
- 4  In small groups, choose one of the following tasks (make sure all of the tasks are covered):
 - What elements of the short story can be found in this tale?
 - Look at the character(s) in the story. What do we learn about them?
 - What kind of narrator tells the story? Comment on the effect of this type of narrator.
 - Describe the setting and atmosphere of the short story.

Present your findings to the rest of the class. Be prepared to answer any questions they might have.

- 5 Neil's question for December was "Who would you like to see again in December?" Briefly answer this question on a piece of paper, then collect all of the pieces. Everyone should randomly select one and then make notes for a short story based on this answer. Think about the elements of the short story it should contain and outline your character(s) and the setting. You should also decide which kind of narrator will tell the story. Display your plans in class.

VIP FILE

Neil Gaiman was born in the UK in 1960 and is the author of short stories, novels, comics, graphic novels as well as screenplays for TV and films. He regularly uses Twitter, Facebook, and his own blog to communicate with his fans and to try out new ideas, although at the end of 2013 he announced he was taking a six-month break from social media "so I can concentrate on my day job: making things up".

