

Title:	Revision Tales
Time:	Open-Ended
Preparation	If you are going to introduce this technique to students you will need to prepare a few key words on a particular topic that can be used as the basis for story construction.
Materials	None
Prior Knowledge	This is a revision exercise and students need to be familiar with the material they are revising. That is, the technique works best if students have identified the key words / ideas they want to remember.
Objective	<p>I like the key-word revision technique as a means of revision and as the basis for planning in the exam. However, once students have identified key ideas (and their meaning) it is sometimes difficult for them to remember these words.</p> <p>A simple and much-neglected technique to aid learning here is to turn a set of key words into a story. By so doing, the student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Uses their imagination to put pictures to the words (you "see" the things you need to remember).2. Reinforces connections between the key ideas.3. Is able to generate clues to the meaning of key ideas by "seeing" them in context.

Technique

In this example we can use **Post-Modernism** as the focus for our "Revision Tale" and we can use the following key ideas as the basis for our story:

Freedom
Choice
Pick and Mix
Individualism
Uncertainty

I've deliberately limited the number of key words for the purpose of this example. If you are teaching this technique for the first time to a group of students it's advisable to prepare a set of key words in advance.

This exercise can be done as a classroom revision exercise (where different students can relate their personal revision tales) or it can be used as a homework assignment.

Post-Modernism: My Revision Tale

Feeling peckish, I went into Woolworth's to buy some sweets. Inside the shop was a large **pick and mix** sweet display, filled with a huge variety of different sweets. There were so many different types of sweet that I was, at first, spoilt for **choice**. A big sign on the counter said "Please feel **free** to choose any sweets you like" and I quickly started to fill a bag with all kinds of goodies. An old man standing next to me said "It's not right to mix boiled sweets with chocolates" but I ignored him "It's up to me what I do" I thought "I'm an **individual** and I really don't care what he thinks".

However, the fact that I had so much choice meant that I was **uncertain** which sweets to choose. It was certainly a bit confusing being faced with so much choice.

Sensing my confusion, the old man said. "It was different and so much easier in my day. When I was your age the only choice you had was boiled sweets".