

Little Match Girl- Julia Murphy



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Teacher Guide

Julia's video shows plenty of examples of how we use **entity, handling, SASS (depicting signs) and constructed action** to tell a story. There are very few **lexicalised signs** (*signs that are commonly used for a particular noun, verb, or adjective and officially presented in the Auslan dictionary*) used throughout the story, so encourage students to work out the context of the story and what is happening. The activities below will help them become skilled in comprehending Auslan stories and develop their own skills in using **depicting signs** and **constructed action**.

Julia is a beautiful storyteller with the capacity to exhibit emotions in her story, and clearly demonstrate placement of objects and people in a space. Reflect on how she sets up the scene as she rests her head on the window and watches a family gather around the table, running off to a street corner, simply by depicting a wall on the corner and her fingers as running feet. She also demonstrates role shifting between the girl, the family, the father and her grandmother. Challenge students to consider how they know when she's presenting which character in the story. They should pick up on her use of eye gaze, body language, facial expressions and use of space.

If you are teaching primary school students who are too young to grasp the concept of labelling signs as **entity, handling, SASS, and constructed action**, replay parts of the video where Julia uses these features and ask students to illustrate the following information shared

- **The appearance of the girl (SASS)**
- **The family she saw in the window (Constructed Action and SASS)**
- **Lighting the match (entity and constructed action)**
- **The Christmas tree decorations and presents (SASS)**
- **The appearance of Grandma (SASS)**

ACTIVITIES

COMPREHENSION- PART 1

Below, illustrate or summarise the story in as much detail possible.

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COMPREHENSION- PART 2: Instant Assessment

See if the students get the specific details from the Auslan text and allow them to reward themselves certain points for details they get correct.

One night. **1**

Cold windy **1**

Snowing **1**

Little girl her hair curled up at the bottom **1**

She was very poor **2 (extra point for picking up the emphasis on poor to mean 'very')**

Dirty dress with holes **2**

A little bow. **1**

No shoes. **1**

Cold feet trudging through the snow. **1**

They were purple **1**

In the street people walked by happily **2**

Little girl pulled out the match. **1**

Match want? Match want? **1**

No one did **1**

She was cold **1**

She walked on **1,**

Then she saw a window and peeked. **2**

She looked wistfully. **1**

There was a table with mother father, and children eating food, drinking happily **5**

By the burning warm fire, **3**

The girl turned away sadly. **1**

Then realised, her father **1**

would ask if she had made any money. **1**

She would have to say no. **1**

He would be angry and hurt her. **2**

No no, I don't want to go home! She cried. **2**

She ran away into a corner alley **2**

She shivered in the cold **1**

She took out a match **1**
and struck it against the wall **2**
to keep herself warm **1**
The fire would disappear, **1**
so she lit another. **1**
Then again, it'd disappear **1**.
On the third match, **1**
a Christmas tree appeared, **2**
with baubles, tinsels, lollies and lights flashing. **5 (one point each)**
Presents were all over the bottom. **1**
There was an angel at the top. **1**
The little girl wanted it..... And she reached for it. **2**
But then it all disappeared. **1**
The girl went back to keeping warm **1**
Stars twinkled in the sky. **1**
Then she saw a shooting star **2**
She remembered, her grandmother **2**
one day said that a shooting star **3**
means someone will die. Someone will die soon. (Sorry guys) **2**
The girl struck one last match and **1**
saw something coming towards her. **1**
It was a figure with a bun and glasses. **2**
Hello she said **1**
Grandma! Grandma!! **1**
She was starting to fade/disappear. **1**
The little girl said "Wait! I'll come with you!" **2**
And struck one last match. **1**
Grandma said " are you ready?" **1**
Yes! Said the little girl. **1**
They both happily disappeared into the sky. **2**
The next morning (NSW sign) the sun rose. **2**

In the corner the little girl was curled with a smile on her face. **3**

People walked by and stopped. **1**

They saw the matches all over the ground **1**

Oh awful. She wanted to be warm. She froze to death. Aw **3**

Oh well. And off they went on their day. **1**

They didn't know that the girl was far happier with grandma. **3**

Up in heaven like a shining star shimmering all over the place. **3**

COMPREHENSION- PART 3:

1. What was the weather like? (3 marks)

2. Describe how the little Match Girl looked (2 marks)

3. What did the little Match Girl see in the window? (2 marks)

4. How did it make her feel? How do you know? (2 marks)

5. Why didn't the little girl want to go home? (2 marks)

6. How did she try to keep warm? (1 mark)

7. What magically appeared in front of her? Describe it as much as you can. (7 marks)

8. What did she see in the sky, and what did she remember her grandma telling her it meant? (2 marks)

9. Who did the little girl see and where did she go in the end? (2 marks)

10. Identify when Julia uses the following elements of Auslan in her story (4 marks)

AN ENTITY	
USE OF SASS	
HANDLING	
CONSTRUCTED ACTION	

/27 marks