



Teachers’ newsletter

Spring 2011

PUTTING STORIES AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

Valentine’s Day Teachers’ Conference



The Story Museum is collaborating with one of the UK’s leading figures in the world of education, the Talk for Writing expert, Pie Corbett.

Our one-day conference, *Raising standards in writing through storytelling*, will be held on Monday 14 February 2011. It showcases successful partnerships between education guru, Pie Corbett, The Story Museum and storytelling schools.



Outstanding results

Head and deputy head teachers from Trevithick Primary School in Cornwall will also be speaking at our Valentine’s Day conference. Trevithick adopted the storytelling model and has progressed from being a once failing school to being described by OFSTED as ‘Outstanding’ and ‘A magical place’ by a parent.

To see a full line-up of speakers and workshops and download a booking form, go to: www.storymuseum.org.uk/conference-2011. More info: eka@storymuseum.org.uk

Ideas exchange

Storytelling teachers shared suggestions and insights at a Networking Day in January held by the Story Museum. Teachers have told us they would like to see more of these one-day seminars organised, both for seasoned practitioners and those new to the storytelling schools approach. Look out for details and, meanwhile, view some of their successful tips and ideas in the storytelling schools section of our website.

Parents’ pack in pipeline

Joseph Adams, from Great Milton Primary School, has developed an innovative *Storytelling Home Kit*, encouraging parents to engage in storymaking at home. This is now being trialled by partner schools.

Inspiring video clips

See storytelling work its magic on Teachers’ TV, as the Story Museum’s Chris Smith and Adam Guillain lead sessions at Pegasus, a storytelling primary school. Three video clips, part of the website’s Good Practice section, show how stories and hopscotch games can aid pupils’ writing skills. The five-minute Talk to Write clips may be viewed at: www.teachers.tv/series/good-practice



What storytelling means to me

“Storytelling and Talk for Writing techniques have completely changed the way I teach. They have had a massive impact upon the language skills and writing of the children in my class. Everything can be taught through stories! The children are instantly engaged and watching them becoming confident storytellers is fantastic. They take this confidence into their writing, which produces amazing results.”

Conference speaker,
Nanette Stormont, English coordinator, Pegasus Primary School, Oxford

Bookfeast Schools Festival 14 - 17 March 2011

Bring your school to meet some of the country's top authors, illustrators and poets and get everyone buzzing about books. Festival events are taking place at the Story Museum and also Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum.

Speakers include Michael Rosen, Jeremy Strong, Michael Lawrence, Tony Bradman, Lauren St John, Linda Newbery and Matt & Dave.

Michael Rosen will be at the Story Museum on Monday 14 March and the Etherington

Brothers, dynamic comic illustrators, will be here on Thursday 17 March.

Pre-booking necessary: www.bookfeast.net or contact the Bookfeast schools' events manager: celia.maclachlan@bookfeast.net

Neighbourhood tales

The Story Museum ran several storytelling events over the summer on Oxford's Rose Hill estate. At the Community Centre, children and adults heard and told stories and swapped books.

We also ran storytelling events at Rose Hill and Pegasus School Fetes – a great way to engage directly with parents. Many children took to the stage and told their own stories.

Coordinators' group

Two schools in the South Oxford Partnership, Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill, have created their own way of linking up. Storytelling coordinators meet six times a year to explore particular issues together. The Story Museum provides new stories and technical support.

World Cup of Stories



Five schools in the South Oxford Partnership organised a storytelling event to coincide with the World Cup last summer. Each class learned a story from a chosen country, which was then retold to classes in their own and other schools. Peter Rhoades-Brown from Oxford United visited, wowing the schools with his tales of top flight football.



A shop for fictional characters only...

If you're passing by our home in Rochester House, you may notice a rather unusual shop window. The Story Museum's current artist-in-residence, Ted Dewan, uncovered Rochester's Story Supplies when he removed a plywood hoarding from the window. "I couldn't believe my eyes," he said. "The shop seems to be intact and full of the weirdest products I've ever seen. There are packets of magic beans, shoe polish for glass slippers, dental floss for giants, even wolf repellent." Staff at the Story Museum are baffled by Ted's discovery. Intrigued? Bring children and take a look at the window - but be warned, the shop is only open to the fictional community.

Picture: Ted with children from St Ebbe's school. Ed Nix, Oxford Mail/Times

The value of narrative progression

With careful planning, storytelling work can directly support the specific language skills that need to be learned throughout the school year. Pie Corbett and several schools have found the following resource useful: *Telling the Story, a progression for teaching narrative writing*, produced by Carol Satterthwaite. Look out for more details on the schools section of our website or contact carol.satterthwaite@btinternet.com

