

Monday 29th June 2020 - Day 1

LO: I can begin to explore the power of stories



In April, we had planned to visit Exmouth Community College as part of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival. Year 5 had booked to see an afternoon production of Michael Morpurgo's 'I Believe in Unicorns'. Unfortunately, due to the closure of schools, Alibi Theatre Company had to cancel the performance.

Wonderfully, we have since been given a link so we can still enjoy the performance later this week! This production of 'I Believe in Unicorns' will inspire a series of sessions looking at the power of stories.

I Believe in Unicorns, written by Michael Morpurgo in 2006, is about the power of books and the imagination. Set in Slovenia during a troubled period in its recent history, it shows the value of stories in children's lives as a way of understanding the world and developing empathy.

Task

1. In your book, answer these warm up questions:

- How important are stories in your life?
- How often do you have a story?
- What is your favourite kind of story? (human drama, action, adventure, comedy, tragedy, romance?)
- Do you prefer to hear stories, watch stories, read stories, or tell stories (or all of these)?

2. With someone at home, play the metaphor game 'If my story were...'. Find the resource in our Year 5 folder. If you can't do this activity with a partner, you can still have a go by yourself.

3. There are many types of stories in the world. Your preferences for particular types of story will reflect your identity. **In your book, answer these key questions:**

- Why do we need stories?
- What would the world be like without stories?

4. **Look at some photographs of story spaces in our Year 5 folder. Rate these examples in your book and give comments as to:**

- The most unusual or original;
- The most inspiring or imaginative;
- The most exciting;
- The most durable;
- The most comfortable;
- The most practical (e.g. you can have lots of people listening to a story for a long time there!)

5. **Design your own storytelling space. Consider these questions:**

- Where would it be?
- What shape would the chair be? It could be an animal, a vehicle, a form in nature, the shape of a famous landmark...?
- What does it feel like to touch?
- What can the chair do? Does it have any magic buttons or powers?

You may wish to use the planning sheet **in our Year 5 folder** to draw and label your design.

Challenge Stories are all part of your identity - whether they are stories you make up or real things that have happened to you. It is important that we share each other's stories in order to understand each other. **Create a storytelling chair at home using materials you can find. Whenever anyone sits in this chair, they have the power to tell a story!**