



BOOK BOX BITES

October Newsletter: Vol 3

Hi my lovely Book Box Crew! How are you all?
If you've not been told this week, you're doing an incredible job and it's not long until you can re-charge those batteries at Half Term!

Welcome to the October Newsletter, which is a bumper issue this month as there's so much I want to share with you!
This weekend I was at Cheltenham, soaking up the autumnal sunshine and all things books at the Literary Festival. I'll share some take aways further down. So read on!!!

In this issue there will be quick to dip into **Book Box Bites** giving suggestions for ensuring Black History month isn't just a month, for supporting mental health, poetry and a catch up of a few reviews from my Instagram page @mrsbrownbookbox

Enjoy reading with a cuppa and do pop this in your staff room or recommend it may be useful to.

Esther x

Useful Dates coming up

November 1st - Authors Day

November 5th - Bonfire Night

November 7th - 13th - Children's Book Week

Nov 11th - 14th - Anti Bullying Week

Nov 16th - 19th - World Nursery Rhyme Week



Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author.

When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.

Rudine Sims Bishop wrote her essay Windows Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors in 1990 which includes the powerful quote above.

But what does this mean for our classrooms?

We need to ensure that we are providing a range of inclusive books from a diverse range of authors and illustrators so that all children can see themselves reflected in literature and they can gain valuable experience the world beyond their immediate frame of reference. This applies to both fiction and non-fiction, particularly the humanities where there has historically been an imbalance towards a white British narrative.



Click here to watch Rudine Sims Bishop speak





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BOOKS TO ENSURE BLACK HISTORY IS TAUGHT ALL YEAR ROUND

Black History Month

Black History Month is a good opportunity to reflect on what more needs to be done in order to ensure that our humanities curriculum is fit for purpose. Black History is British History and this should be reflected within our teaching and learning all year round.

The Rt Hon The Lord Paul Boateng of Akyem and Wembley PC DL has spoken about this saying *'The challenge is to prepare, by a policy of inclusion rather than exclusion, all young people to thrive in a diverse and multi polar world in which no region or race holds sway over all others.'*

These books will help build and enrich the curriculum for all children all year round.



HISTORY BOOKS TO EMBED BLACK HISTORY INTO THE CURRICULUM ALL YEAR ROUND

HISTORICAL NARRATIVES TO SUPPORT TEACHING

DOODLING IS "A FORM OF EXTERNAL THOUGHT THAT ALLOWS YOU TO VISUALIZE THE CONNECTIONS YOU ARE MAKING WHILE THINKING. IN THE CONSCIOUS MIND, DOODLING CAN ASSIST CONCENTRATION AND FOCUS BUT EVEN IN THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND, WHILE DOODLING AND DAY DREAMING CONNECTIONS ARE MADE."

GIULIA FORSYTHE, BROCK UNIVERSITY

READING FOR PLEASURE TIP

Let children doodle during the class story.



Several studies have show that doodling can increase concentration and comprehension.

The visual and motor parts of the brain are engaged which leads to better retention.

Rooney (2009) found that 3rd Grader's comprehension increased with doodling and in 2021, Mohammed et al found the same in high school pupils.

Why not give children a reading journal so they can record jottings, thoughts or images as you read to them?



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MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Today is World Mental Health Day.

Books are such a valuable resource to help children to name emotions, to develop emotional literacy, build empathy and help open important conversations.

If you are looking for resources to support mental health and wellbeing, I have a number of resources on my website: www.theprimarybookbox.com to help start conversations alongside creative activities.

If you are interested, do use the exclusive discount code **EMOTION20** at the checkout - valid until 14.10.22



POETRY PROMPTS

Do you like teaching poetry?

Last week saw many people sharing their favourite poems for National Poetry Day.

Did you know that Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho also launched his Poetry Prompts series last week?

Each Monday, a new video will be released on the BookTrust website with great ideas to help make poetry writing easy and fun.

Click this link to have a look.
Poetry Prompts library | BookTrust





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TEACHING TIPS FROM CHELTENHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

Joseph Coelho ~ Poetry Starter Idea ~ 1 word poems

Poems can be one word ~ but they need a long title!

e.g.

The Day I ate my Grandma's socks

Yuck!

The day I jumped from an aeroplane without a parachute

Aaaaaaaargh!!!

A great acronym for use in poetry teaching is:

MORERAPS~ metaphor, onomatopoeia, rhyme, emotion, repetition, alliteration, personification, simile

Check out Joseph Coelho reciting his poem here:



GAME ON! ~ Computer games and writing

This session was so interesting to me in understanding the world of many of our children.

I think the biggest lesson I took from it was that particularly adventure games or immersive world games can really help children to see a narrative arc or to world build.

For me, I can see a real value in using this idea as part of the planning process so really immerse children in their fantasy world and characters they are creating and

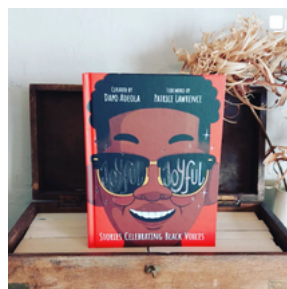
A COUPLE OF MINI REVIEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED



An empowering story with a great 'women in STEM' protagonist about chasing your dreams and promoting the values of hard work and resilience to get there.

There's some great vocabulary and it would make a fantastic KS1 text for teaching from, for inspiring writing or for reading for pleasure.

Curated by the brilliant Dapo Adeola, this fantastic anthology is a celebration of black voices, culture and heritage, and combines stories of lived experience with lots of fun, food, family and fantasy.



Author interviews are fantastic to give children an insight into the process behind writing, help them to see authors as 'real people' and give them hints and tips for their own creativity.