

The Jean Russell Storytelling Project for 2018

Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Fair

The Jean Russell Storytelling Project for 2018, 'Story Cooking' promises to be innovative, fun and a powerful way of sharing and creating stories with children aged from 5 to 12. Six of our Children's Book Groups, from bracing Skegness to rural West Wales, from inner city Plymouth to the Forest school of South Buckinghamshire will be working with award-winning storyteller Anna Conomos in full-day workshops.

The project is based on the Russian folk tale of Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Fair; Baba Yaga is a deformed and ferocious-looking witch who lives in a forest hut with a life of its own. Vasilisa comes to Baba Yaga seeking light, with a magic doll that will protect her, but only as long as she feeds it.

The telling of stories over a meal and around a fire is a fundamental part of humanity's history and the project will emphasise the historical and communal nature of creating and sharing food and stories together. Anna will be working with the children to create food story recipes to feed to the doll – recipes from other myths and legends, old family recipes, local recipes, recipes from their own cultures, their favourite recipes...Each school will watch the children perform with Anna, participate in the sharing of recipes and, where possible, enjoy some of the food.

Resources will be available for all members of the Federation of Children's Book Groups after the project has been completed in November 2018. These will include: all the food stories and recipes created and used during the project in our Jean Russell Storytelling Recipe Booklet, online resources exploring the use of food and stories across cultures and an interactive video of the story that all groups and FCBG members will be able to use.



The story of Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Fair is available

to download on the NSSM page of the FCBG website - www.fcbg.org.uk

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