



## National Share a Story Month 2017

### Picture A Story, celebrating the power of illustration – ideas for book groups

#### 1. Celebrating pictures.

\*Encourage youngsters to experience a wide range of **illustrations** and explore the different ways they tell a story and accompany, compliment and extend the text.

\*Look at wordless texts.

\*Discuss how text can be a form of illustration in its own way.

\*Can text be read even if it is scattered all over the page? How does text of different sizes or fonts compliment the story or poem?

\*Look at various styles from water colour, oils, black and white ink drawings to collage, silhouette, embroidery and printing.

\*Compare illustrators of different cultures.

\*Enjoy them all!

#### 2. Visit a museum, art gallery or illustration gallery and enjoy the pictures.

\*Discover which paintings tell a story and explore how is this achieved

\*Use a favourite picture or painting as a starting point for writing a story. This could be used as a competition with prizes for the best from KS1 and KS 2.

\*James Mayhew's *Katie* series of picture books are a wonderful way of exploring paintings – *Katie and the Impressionists* is a great example.

#### 3. Explore comics and graphic novels.

\*Share, enjoy and explore this different story form.

\*Discover the way they 'tell' a story. Are there hard and fast rules about reading? Do we always have to read from left to right? How do comics portray action and emotions with so few words?

\*Set youngsters the task of creating a story board for a short story – perhaps a classic at first such as a fairy tale and then write a story board of their own. (Many examples with ideas and tips can be found on Sarah McIntyre's website and Neill Cameron's book *How to Write Awesome Comics*.) Organise a **competition** of creating a story board (suggest a page of A4) for KS1 children and the challenge of creating a comic for KS2 and KS3.

\*Organise a separate **competition** for a group or school who create their own comic.

\*Arrange for an illustrator or comic creator to visit your book group or school for a talk or workshop.

#### 4. Illustration competition –

\*Use *The Everywhere Bear* by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb as stimulus for a competition for the best drawing of a teddy bear (especially Fed Ted) in an unusual place. (KS1&2)

\*Re-design the book jacket of one of the FCBG CBA shortlisted books.

**Please let us know what you have planned and how it goes and we will celebrate NSSM on the FCBG website!** Louise Stothard [nssm@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm@fcbg.org.uk)