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 KS2.
   * 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

NSSM LCS May 2107 nssm@fcbg.org.uk