

READING FOR PLEASURE

THE DECEMBER BOOK ADVENT



Grace Ashworth
@graceashworth97



Edge Hill University

Reading for Pleasure Aim



- In order to promote reading for pleasure with my Year 2 class during my final professional practice placement, I decided to create a December book advent.
- I aimed to develop a love and enjoyment for reading in class, whilst encouraging children to step out of their comfort zones and explore new genre.
- For each day in December, every child was given the opportunity to pick a wrapped up book from the box and open it at the end of the day.
- At the end of each day, we gathered on the carpet to read the chosen book, where we discussed our own opinions of the characters and themes.
- The books were a mix of fiction and non-fiction and explored different themes and genres, which helped to encourage book talk.

OU Research inspiration and rationale

Throughout the Reading for Pleasure project, there were two strands of the research (Cremin et al., 2014) that I wanted to explore and develop. Below are the two strands I primarily focused on for the project.

Reading Communities

- To develop a shared concept of what it means to be a reader.
- To create new social spaces where book talk and ownership is created.
- To ensure that in every school day, there is a whole class reading opportunity.
- Building new and equal reading relationships.

Reading Teachers: teachers who read

- Creating an environment where reading became a social event that can be discussed.
- Reading out loud to children on a daily basis.
- Building a strong interactive reading community.
- Recognising the importance of reader identity.

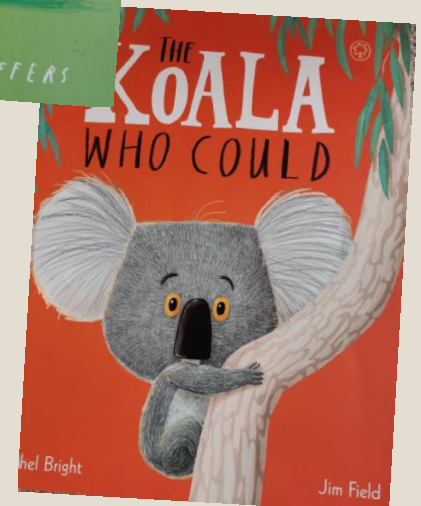
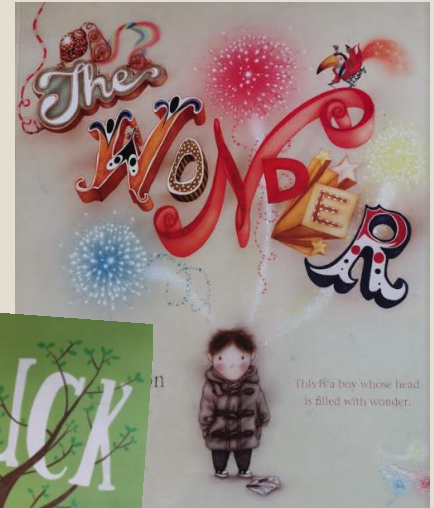
Here are some examples of the books we unwrapped and read together as a class.

Year 2 have been enjoying their book advent. [#readingforpleasure](#)



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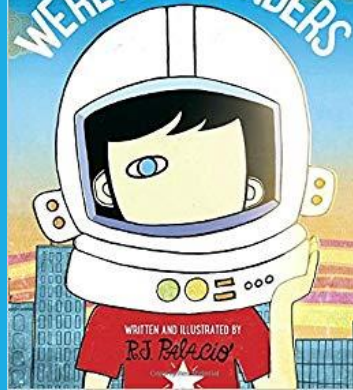
Mrs V recommends...

The CHRISTMAS SHOW

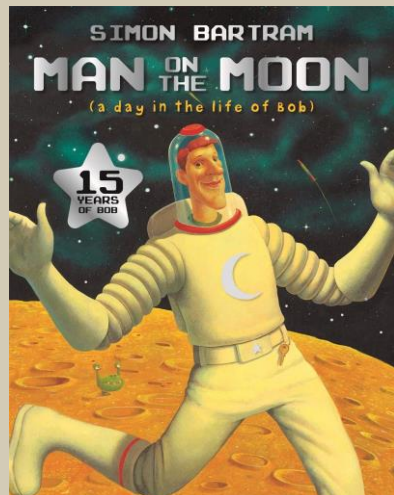
Rebecca Patterson

By the
winner of
the ROAD
DASH FUNNY
PRIZE

WE'RE ALL WONDERS



To enhance the related reading for pleasure display, each teacher recommended a book each week.



Book



the

week

To ensure that the class had an ownership and voice about the stories we were exploring together, we voted for a book of the week.



The Impact



- An element of curiosity and excitement was created around reading, as every child knew they would be able to choose and unwrap a book each day.
- A whole class reading experience was created, where the children enjoyed listening to stories at the end of each day.
- The book advent became something that the children looked forward to and were disappointed if they did not have time for it.
- The class were exposed to a variety of books.
- An element of mystery was created, around what book would be unwrapped next.
- The children started to discuss their opinions of the stories and we decided on the book of the week to go into the reading area.
- Overall, an environment was created where reading for pleasure was evident in the classroom and within the children.

Reflection

Whilst completing my reading for pleasure project, there were some challenges, that in the future I will aim to improve:

- On some days, we did not get time to unwrap and read a book, as reading for pleasure time was not explicit in the class timetable.
- I included mostly fiction books in the project, opposed to an equal balance of all genres.
- It was a challenge to ensure that we could read together and have a discussion about the books.
- Some children became disappointed if they had not opened a book yet and this often delayed the amount of time we had to read and discuss each story.
- Overall the TaRs reserach helped me share my pleasure in a planned way.

