

Class Book Clubs

Rebekah Norman



Context



- Bromley Heath Infant School is a two form entry school in a middle class area of Bristol.
- The children have good access to books in school and at home and are generally well supported at home but often seem to read because they have to.
- Attainment in reading is generally high but not all children seem to read for pleasure.

OU Research inspiration and rationale

This project was inspired by the Teachers as Readers research (Cremin et al., 2014). We were keen to develop Reading for Pleasure pedagogy throughout the school and focused particularly on the strand of, *‘Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations’*.



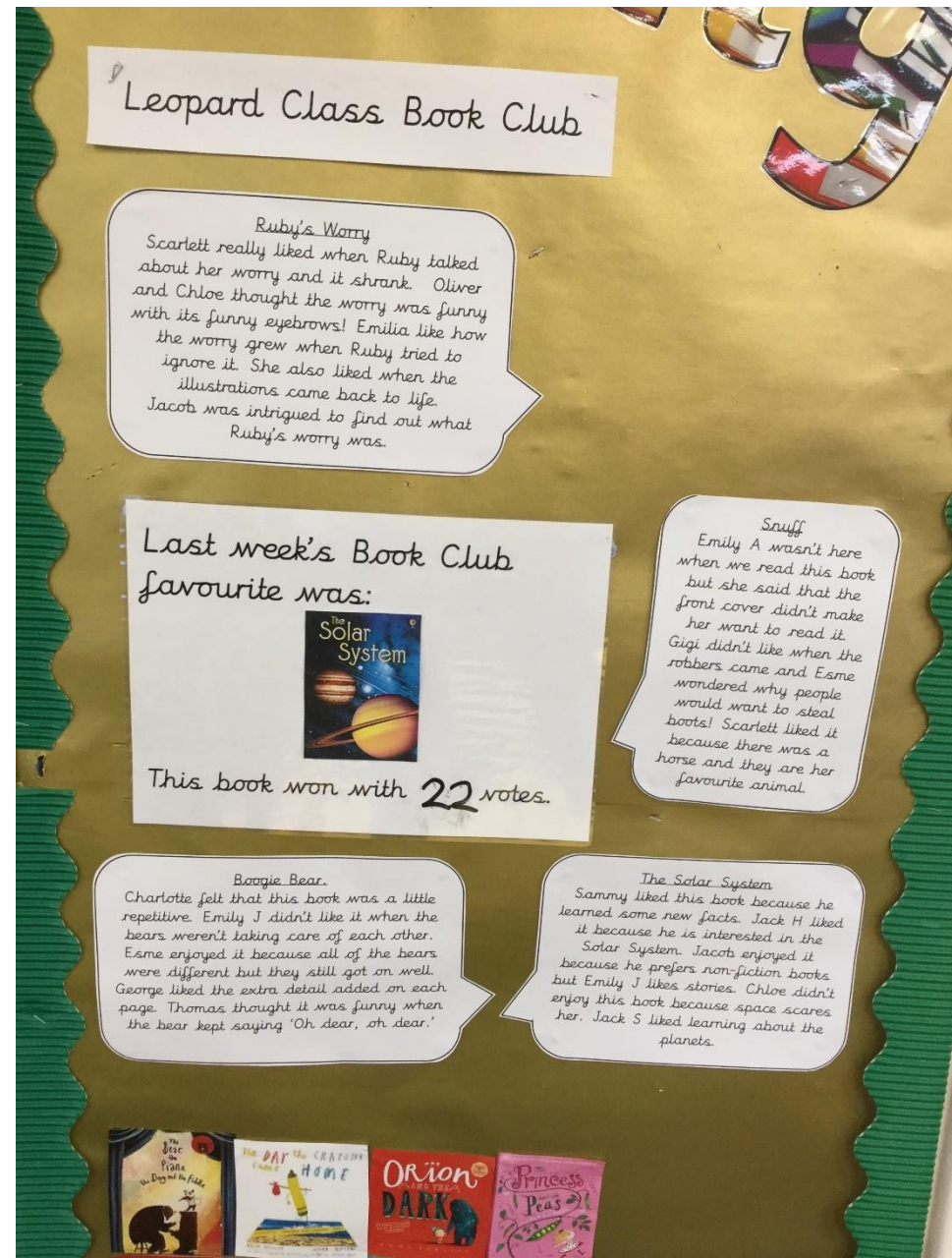
Aims

- To develop children's love of reading.
- To develop children's ability and enthusiasm for talking about books.
- To develop children's vocabulary through reading a wide range of books.
- To make a wide range of up to date, high quality texts readily available to the children.

Outline

- We set up class book clubs where children had the opportunity to talk about books they had read as a class.
- Displays were created of children's comments and books that were voted as favourites.
- Favourite books were kept in a special basket so children could return to texts they loved.
- Children were also encouraged to read to their friends and bring in their favourite books from home to share.





Impact

- Class book clubs had a very visible impact on the children. Their engagement with reading has noticeably increased.
- Vocabulary has improved, this is evident in their speaking and writing. It has also impacted their understanding of what they are reading.
- The children love books and think positively about reading. They are keen to read whenever there is a chance, and see themselves as readers
- Progress in reading has been good. Our data at greater depth increased by 10% to 57% in reading.
- In pupil conferencing, one child who said they hated reading at the beginning of the year now enjoys it and says book club is 'joyful'.
- The quality of book talk has become more sophisticated and this has been noted in lesson observations by SLT.
- Following a presentation at our TSA conference, other schools have started book clubs and are reporting some successes.

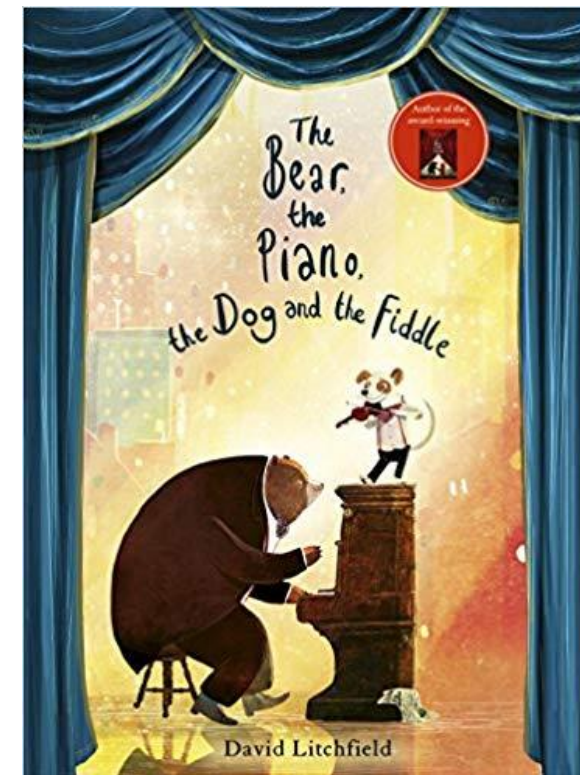
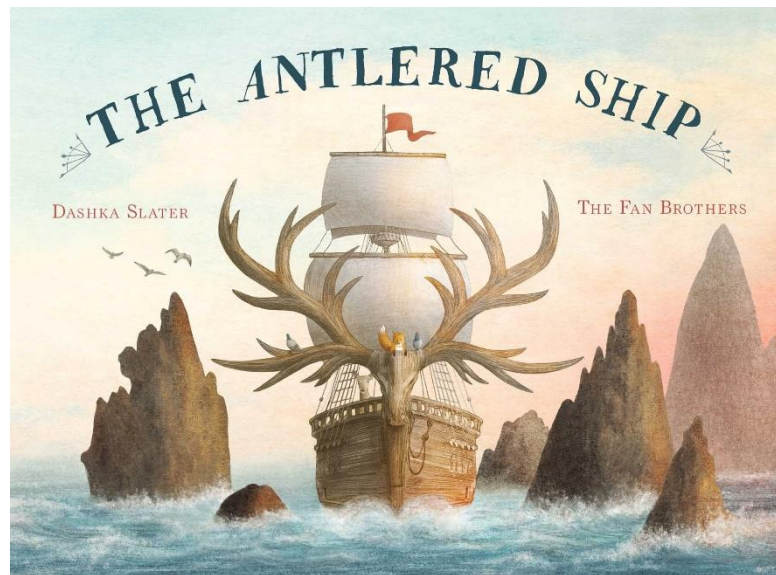
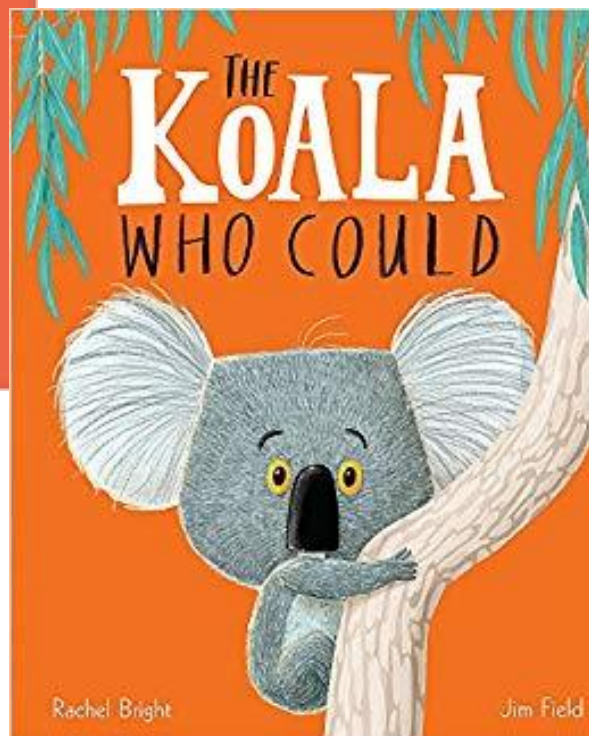
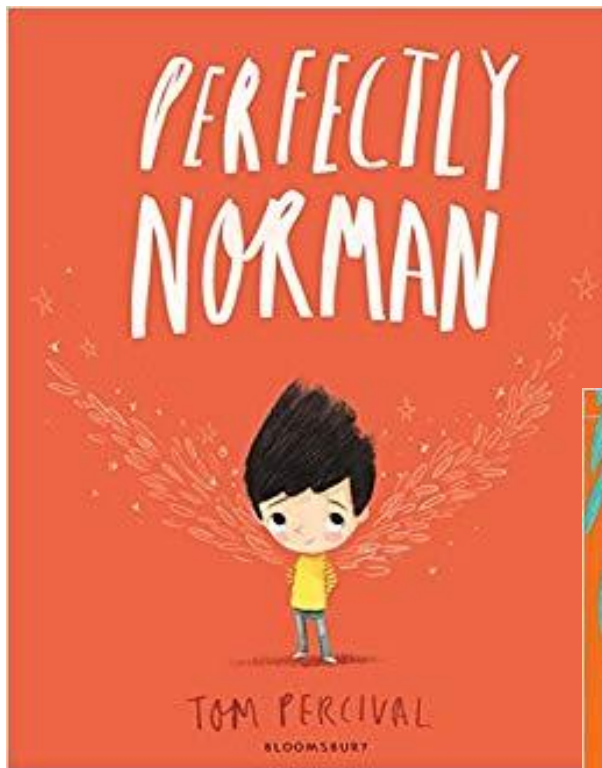
Impact

- Ofsted came to visit! The inspector observed a book club session. He said...

Pupils' reading skills are of a very high order. Our observations of pupils' reading, in class and individually, showed that pupils are consistently developing habits of becoming regular and enthusiastic readers. Pupils read with fluency and understanding. They readily answer questions on interpretation of the texts they had been reading, reflecting their strong comprehension skills.

There is a precise focus on developing children's love of singing, rhymes, and exploring books and early reading.

Some of our favourites...



Our next steps...

- As class book club was started and established in one class before rolling out across the school, we are now planning to firmly embed them as part of the weekly routine in every class.
- We are in the process of creating a film about book club for our school website.
- We are thinking of ways to get parents involved with book club and how to encourage RfP at home.
- As a school we are continually reviewing the books we have and keeping an eye out for new and exciting ones to add to our collection and recommend to friends.