

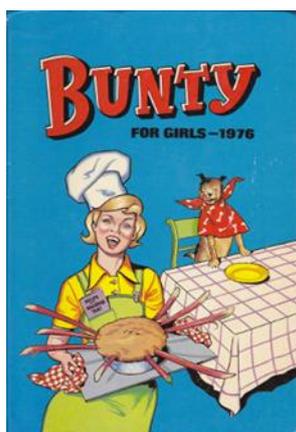
Teachers' Book Club

Sylvie Jones

I am a class teacher, a member of the literacy curriculum team, and a member of our Senior Management Team. I am also a member of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA).

TaRs research inspiration and rationale

I attended a workshop on 'Reading for Pleasure'. It struck a chord. One of the things we were asked to do in the workshop was to reflect on our own reading habits when younger. I realised I had grown up in a house with no books. I joined the local library and become an avid reader. I read comics and magazines such as Bunty and Jackie. And now, here I was an adult, none the worse off for my rather poor start in literacy.



The research strand, 'Reading Teachers: teachers who read and readers who teach' interested me and seemed one I could develop, not only in myself, but together with other teachers in my school.

Aims

The 'Teachers as readers: building communities of readers' research project recommends that teachers are supported to:

find the time and space to widen their reading repertoires

create a pedagogy which fosters reading for pleasure

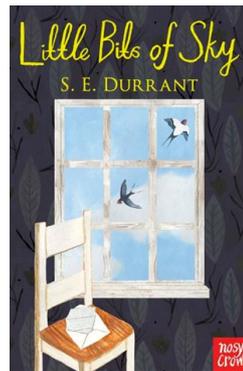
develop as 'Reading Teachers': teachers who read and readers who teach

expand their knowledge of literature and other texts and everyday reading practices

Inspired by my involvement in the UKLA Book Awards judging process, I decided to get hold of the longlisted books within the primary phase and see if I could encourage a group of teachers to read these books together. Our school is part of a network of schools and we hold regular Literacy Network meetings. I introduced the idea of shadowing the UKLA Book Awards.

Our book club for teachers is up and running. We are choosing books to read and meeting in a coffee shop every few weeks to discuss them, ultimately choosing our own winner.

Teachers are enjoying the opportunity to read books they wouldn't otherwise have read.



Impact

Teachers say they are more aware of new books and authors. Teachers are motivated by regular book club dates to read children's books.

During book club meetings, teachers are able to discuss ways books might be included in their classroom routines. One teacher has used the first book we read, 'Little Bits of Sky' by S.E.Durrant, to start a book club with a group of reluctant readers in her Year 5 class.

Reflections

Although in its infancy, I can see the potential of the book club to encourage teachers to find time to read children's books and to feel this is a legitimate way to spend their time.

Teachers who teach in different year groups are being exposed to a range of books that can be recommended to colleagues in different classes and also used if they move into new year groups.

I hope the book club model will inspire more teachers to start their own book club.