



# Context

- I am a Year 4 class teacher and Literacy Coordinator at Horsenden Primary School in the London Borough of Ealing. We are trying to encourage Reading For Pleasure as part of our School Development Plan to increase enjoyment and attainment in Reading.



## OU Research inspiration and rationale

Inspired by Teachers as Readers findings 1. (*Considerable knowledge of children's literature and other texts*) and 3. (*A reading for pleasure pedagogy which includes: Social reading environments; Reading aloud; Independent reading; Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations*), we are always looking for new ways to generate excitement around reading and introduce the children to new books and authors. In addition, Battle of the Books also widened the book knowledge of the teachers taking part. It helped us nurture the community of reading within our classrooms.

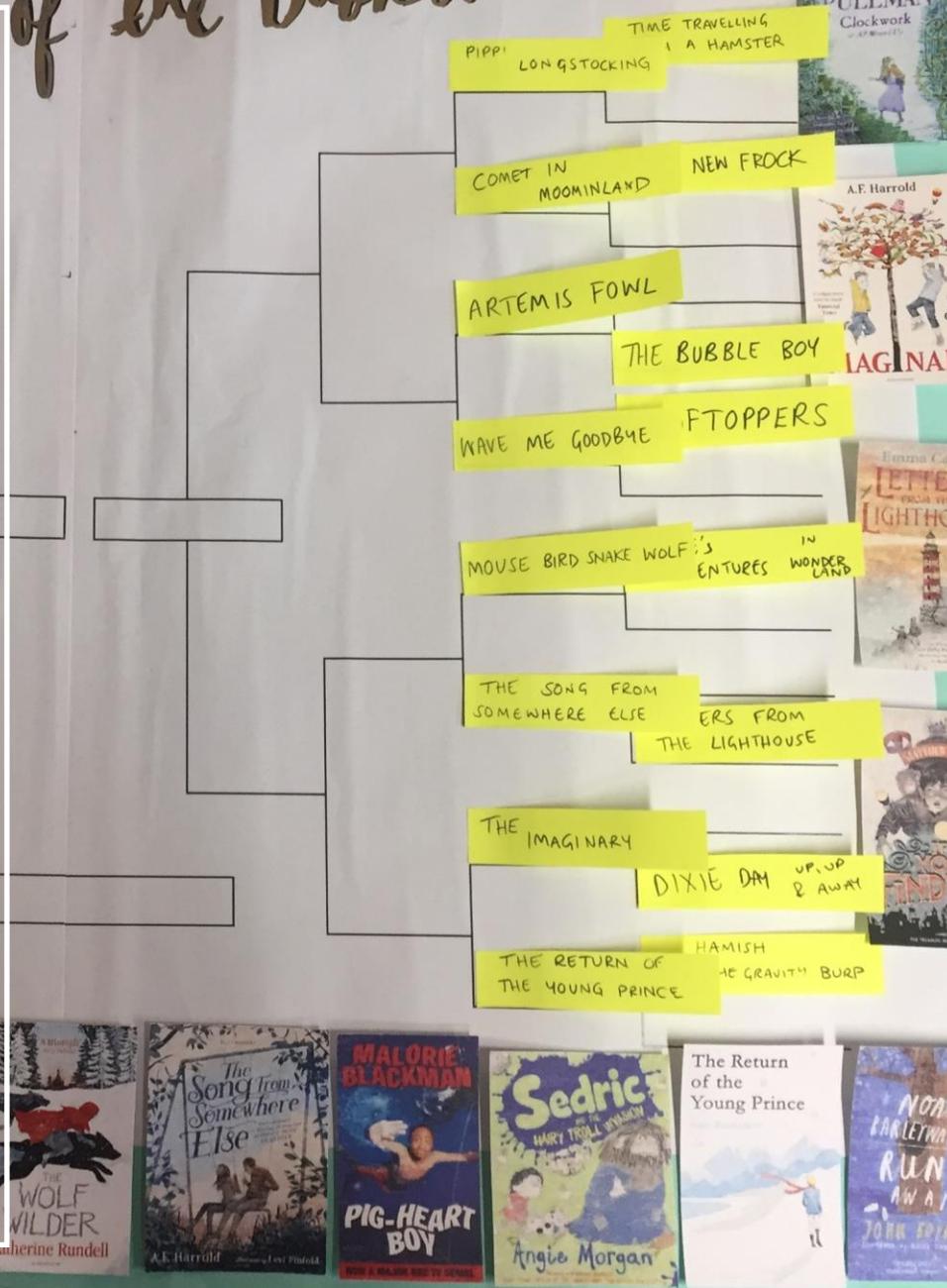
# Aims

- The original idea for Battle of the Books comes from a blogpost by Ashley Booth (@MrBoothY6) found here:  
<https://theteachingbooth.wordpress.com/2017/05/27/the-book-world-cup-handing-the-power-to-the-children/>
- Although we read many books with our children, they are mostly chosen by the teachers. We saw Ashley's idea as a great way to firstly introduce the children to new books and authors, then encourage enormous amounts of rich book-talk, finally resulting in a new book being read with the children that they chose themselves.

# Battle of the Books!

## Outline

- First, we chose 32 books. These were a combination of teachers' own books along with many books from our school library. We are fortunate enough to have our own librarian who made excellent recommendations.
- Next, we made simple tournament posters (these can easily be found for free online by searching for "32 bracket single elimination poster", or however many brackets you need) and stuck pictures of the book covers around the edge. Everything was attached with Blu-Tack or made from Post-Its so that the posters can be reused.







# Impact

- The biggest impact was that the children were introduced to new books that they hadn't heard of, but that really interested them. The children were so opinionated and passionate, which we told them meant that they really needed to borrow and read these books, not just the overall winner. The poster has been left up for children to refer to when borrowing books from the school or class library.
- The children were also beginning to make links between books they've read before and the books in the Battle. The book-talk was particularly rich, because the children were so engaged and wanted to persuade their peers to vote for their favourite book.
- We will be running a Battle of the Books termly, and next time children will be encouraged to bring in books from home that they would recommend.

## Reflections on impact the TaRs research had on practice

- Before engaging with the TaRs research, I did not realise how limited teacher knowledge of children's literature was. Since discovering the TaRs project, we have been working to create a reading culture across our school, with staff recommending children's literature to each other and sharing ideas such as the Battle of the Books.