

## **Context**

I am a Librarian working for Inspire's Education Library Service – a Schools Library Service, which is part of a community benefit society serving Nottinghamshire.



## **OU Research inspiration and rationale**

The Teachers as Readers: Building communities of Readers (TaRs) research project, by Professor Teresa Cremin et al (2014) found that new and extended opportunities for interaction around texts developed reader to reader recommendations and the emergence of spontaneous 'inside-text talk.'

The Reading Agency 'Literature Review: The impact of reading for pleasure and empowerment highlighted bringing together a strong body of research demonstrating the benefits of reading for pleasure and its impact on increased educational attainment, communication, health, wellbeing & empathy.

## **Aims**

- To give opportunities and promote reading for pleasure
- To increase choice of books
- To create a more positive attitude towards reading
- Trying to promote communities that are reciprocal and interactive

## **Outline**

The Sherwood Forest Education Partnership (SFEP) is a Community Interest Company made up of ten schools in the Sherwood Forest area, Nottinghamshire. The Reading for Pleasure pilot project was aimed at years 3 & 4 of the schools involved. Reading stock in classrooms and schools tended to be static, so in partnership with The Education Library Service (ELS) participating schools received 50 books aimed at year 3 & 4. These were chosen by ELS librarians, using their professional stock knowledge, with a focus on a specific genre and author. These collections were swapped each half term. Books were collected by the Inspire delivery van and a new collection was sent to replace them every six weeks. As the books were in school for a limited period it avoided static stock and gave an impetus for reading for pleasure. Multiple copies of some books were in the collections to encourage conversations and reading and sharing of opinions. The ELS mobile library, which stocks a wide range of fiction and non-fiction leisure reading for 3 – 11 year olds visited schools in the summer term, for pupils to choose their own books, providing a great way to promote reading for pleasure.



## Impact

Schools report that pupils have read more books than had previously been the case and teachers reported that reading levels have improved. One school reported that another year in their school were so envious of this pilot, that they have started their own book club from the school library as they wanted to join in!

## Reflections on impact the TaRs research had on practice

This pilot has promoted reading for pleasure and increased the choice and range of books available to the schools. It has given teachers the opportunity to develop their own reading for pleasure, as well as that of pupils.

Another group of schools, having heard about the SFEP project, developed a similar project to encourage reading for pleasure.

Some SFEP schools have signed up to continuing with the project, and we are waiting to hear from others. The Education Library Service will continue to offer this service. It helps schools, saving them time and money, and they can consider how we can best support their specific reading community.