

Beyond Literature Legends

Developing teachers' knowledge of children's literature and other texts

Kelsey Barham

@MissKBarham

Jocelyn Blampied

@missblampied

Ellie Buttle

@MissEFenlon

Context

We are third year BA Hons Primary Education with QTS students at University of Greenwich engaging in a children's literature enhancement module.

We have experience in many schools across the south-east in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.



Kelsey

- As my research project will look at children's perception of reading for pleasure, I hope that the knowledge gained from this module will build a firm foundation for my own research.
- I am hoping to be in a Key Stage Two class where I have often observed a dislike for reading, so by having a wide variety of quality literature to rely will hopefully encourage children to enjoy reading!

Jocelyn

- I have loved reading ever since I remember my Nanna reading to me the Faraway Tree collection by Enid Blyton and imagining all those characters in my head, especially Moon face.
- I am really hoping that I can take this love of reading onto my final School Experience and hopefully share to Upper Key Stage 2 the diverse authors/books to spark their interest.

Ellie

- I grew up with a love of reading as I recall going to the library once a week and picking out books from my favourite authors, Jacqueline Wilson & Roald Dahl.
- I am hoping to use the knowledge gained from this module to aid my practice during SE3 and beyond. I want to ensure that my knowledge of children's literature is diverse and current.

OU Research Inspiration and Rationale

The Phase I Teachers as Readers research found that teachers knowledge of children's literature was **narrow** with a reliance upon their own **limited knowledge** and their own **childhood favourites** (Cremin *et al.*, 2014).

To foster reading for pleasure and reader development, teachers **need** to have sufficient knowledge of children's literature and other texts. By **widening the repertoire** of children's literature and other texts, teachers can talk about texts, make tailored reader to reader recommendations and foster reading for pleasure (The Open University, 2021).

Knowledge of children's literature and of individual children and their reading interests is essential in order to develop young readers who **can and do choose to read for pleasure** - can recommend texts and create a community of readers (Cremin *et al.*, 2014).

46% of teachers could name six authors.

- 62% mentioned Roald Dahl
- 29% mentioned Michael Morpurgo
- 27% mentioned Jacqueline Wilson
- 25% mentioned J. K. Rowling

10% of teachers could name six poets.

- 37 % mentioned Michael Rosen
- 17% mentioned Allan Ahlberg
- 16% mentioned Roger McGough
- 14% mentioned Roald Dahl

(Cremin *et al.*, 2008)

Aims



1. Reflect on our **current knowledge** of children's literature.
2. To develop our knowledge of a **diverse** range of authors and poets, and literature including picture books, books and poems → become less reliant on 'literature legends' such as Roald Dahl and Michael Morpurgo and to integrate a new range of current authors.
3. Engage as a **community of readers** to help broaden our knowledge of children's literature.
4. To be able to **identify** well written, thoughtfully designed books and use these to outline **opportunities for teaching**.

Outline Audits

5. List 6 'good'¹ children's book authors

Erid Blyton _____
Terry Pratchett _____
Jacqueline Wilson _____

6. List 6 good children's picture book authors/illustrators

Julie Donaldson _____

7. List 6 good children's poets

8. How do you decide which children's books to use in your classroom?
 (Tick as many as appropriate)

- Personal interest/knowledge
- Children's recommendations
- Library service
- Literacy coordinator's recommendations
- Other (please specify)

¹ By 'good', we mean those you have found valuable and successful to use with primary-aged children

<https://ourfp.org/>

5. List 6 'good'¹ children's book authors

Erid Blyton _____
David Nalliams _____

6. List 6 good children's picture book authors/illustrators

Julia Donaldson _____
Judith Kerr _____

7. List 6 good children's poets

Michael Rosen _____

8. How do you decide which children's books to use in your classroom?
 (Tick as many as appropriate)

- Personal interest/knowledge
- Children's recommendations
- Library service
- Literacy coordinator's recommendations
- Other (please specify)

Books for Topics website

¹ By 'good', we mean those you have found valuable and successful to use with primary-aged children

<https://ourfp.org/>

5. List 6 'good'¹ children's book authors

Joseph Coelho _____
Julia Donaldson _____

6. List 6 good children's picture book authors/illustrators

Anthony Browne _____

7. List 6 good children's poets

8. How do you decide which children's books to use in your classroom?
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¹ By 'good', we mean those you have found valuable and successful to use with primary-aged children

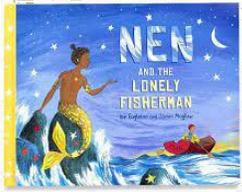
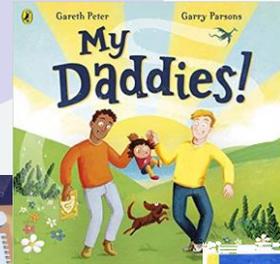
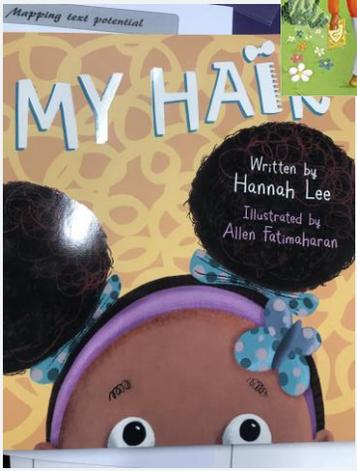
<https://ourfp.org/>

Aim 1: Reflect on current knowledge

Outline

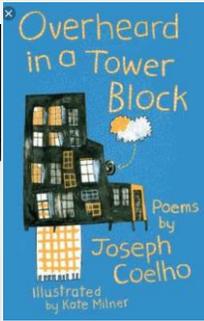
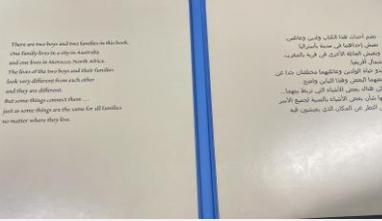
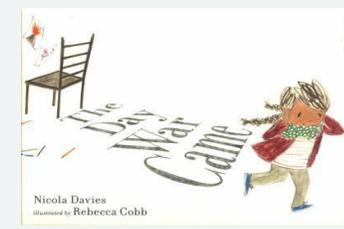
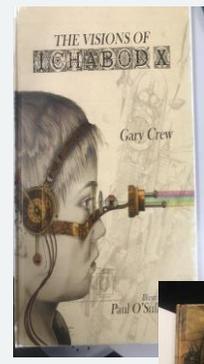
Inclusion

Reflecting Realities

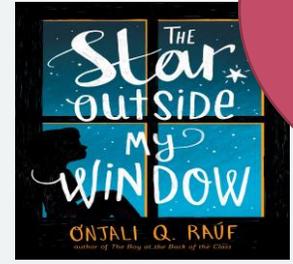
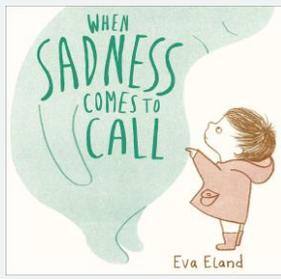
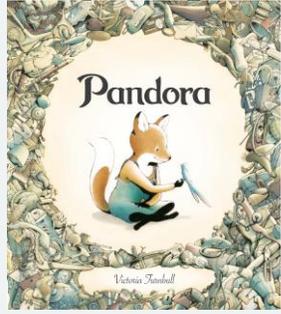


'Poetry?' by Karl Nova on Vimeo - CLPE
Vimeo · CLPE
18 Apr 2018

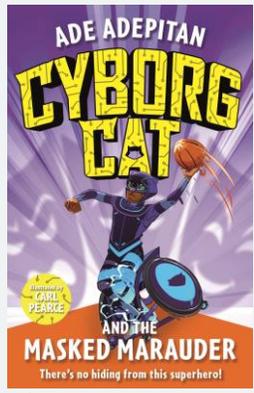
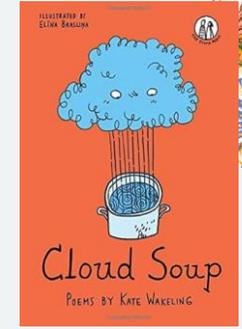
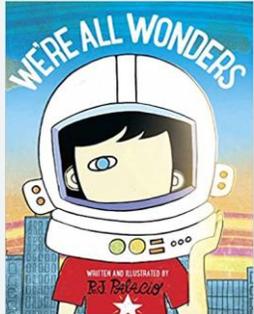
From university sessions and our own research, we have collected books and poems which promote diversity.



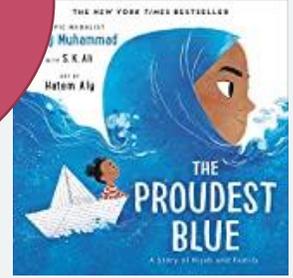
Empathy



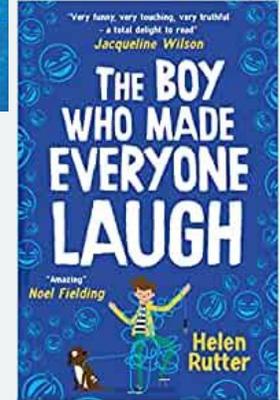
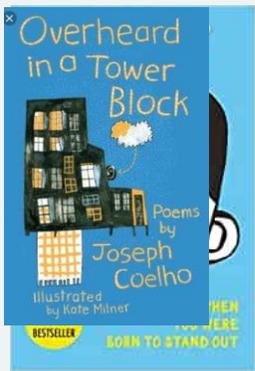
This text for Yr1-2



This text 6-11 years

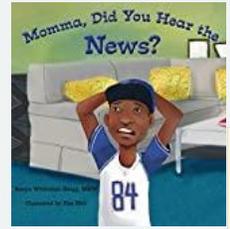


This text Yr 5-6



This text Yr5-6 (learning difficulties and speech disorders)

Disabilities and hatred



This text is for EYFS



Aim 2: Knowledge of diverse authors and texts

Outline

Social media engagement



KARL NOVA
@KarlNova

Hip Hop Artist/Performance Poet/Author/Educator (Ruth Rendell & CLiPPA Award Winner) BOOKINGS: yvonne@caboodlebooks.co.uk @AuthorsAbroad_ keeps me busy :)

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Joined February 2009

989 Following 5,043 Followers

Followed by Sonia, Charlotte Hacking, Reading for Pleasure, and 10 others



Sue Hardy-Dawson
@SueHardyDawson

Award winning & CLiPPA shortlist, Dyslexic, Poet/illustrator #WhereZebrasGo @OtterBarryBooks, #NSTBA18ApestoZebras @BloomsburyBooks @TroikaBooks @AuthorsAbroad_

© Yorkshire suehd1963.wikisite.com/author-blog

Joined April 2009

3,301 Following 2,982 Followers

Followed by Mathew Tobin, Kate Wakeling, Mx G, and 23 others



John Agard
@JohnAgard1

Play writer, poet and children's writer. Born in Georgetown, living in UK. Fans welcome. Love to hear what you think of my poetry. johnagard1@hotmail.com

Joined May 2011

29 Following 1,303 Followers

Followed by Mathew Tobin, Sue Hardy-Dawson, Michael Rosen, and 7 others



CLPE
@clpe1

Putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning. A charity dedicated to helping schools develop literacy learning that transforms lives.

London, SE1 8QW clpe.org.uk Joined July 2009

2,834 Following 31.7K Followers

Followed by Kelsey, Education Greenwich, and 13 others you follow



Joseph Coelho is writing
@JosephACoelho

Writer

Winner: CLPE Poetry & Independent Bookshop Book Awards. Shortlisted: Carnegie, UKLA, Alligators Mouth, Lollies. BBC Teach series, Rep'd @felicitytrew.

© London Town thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com Joined February 2009

2,109 Following 6,657 Followers

Followed by Kelsey, Education Greenwich, and 10 others you follow



In the Reading Corner
PODCAST
Nikki Gamble

Children's Literature
Private group · 3.9K members



onjali rauf
@OnjaliRauf

Founder of @MakeHerstory1 & @O_refugee. Author rep'd by Silvia Molteni @pfdagents. Lover of Tetley tea. Chocolate addict. Feminist. VMO, always.

© Earth: the only one we've got makingherstory.org.uk

Joined October 2012

917 Following 15.7K Followers

Followed by #PrimarySchoolBookClub, Reading for Pleasure, and 4 others you follow



UKLA
@The_UKLA

A supportive community for literacy educators. Research. Awards. Publications. CPD. Sign up here: ukla.org/jamember/signup #UKLA #UKLABookAwards #UKLAchat

© UK ukla.org Joined April 2010

464 Following 14.4K Followers

Followed by Reading for Pleasure, Ben Harris

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet
UKLA @The_UKLA · 25/09/2021
We are excited to share our longlists for the #UKLABookAwards2022! Thanks to all who submitted books this year - the selection was of an outstanding standard which made the process very tough!

Read the full longlists here: ow.ly/Mdv150GrKH

#UKLABookAwards2022



Penguin Kids
@penguinkids

At Penguin Kids we take pride in publishing the best books for every young reader. Our books truly are stories for life, and we hope you join the conversation!

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penguinrandomhouse.com/books/children...

Joined November 2009

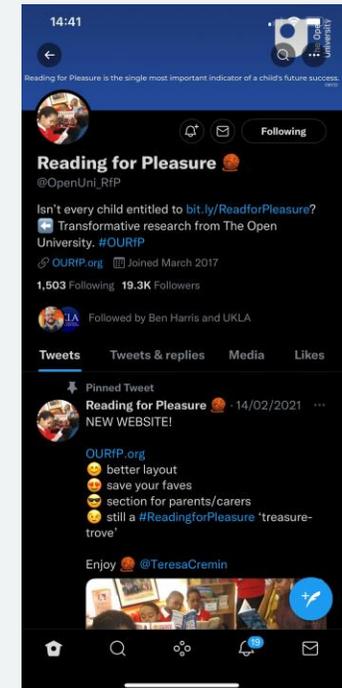
793 Following 35.6K Followers

Followed by Ben Harris

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Retweeted
Alan Silberberg @alansilberberg · 23h
This is still one of my fave comments about MEET THE LATKES! Happy Fifth Night!!
@VikingChildrens @penguinkids
@ReeseMaggie @JillGrinbergLit
@JewishLibraries @PJLibrary

"Learning there's a book about ANTHROPOMORPHIC LATKES is basically the best thing that's happened to me in a while."



Reading for Pleasure
@OpenUni_RfP

Isn't every child entitled to bit.ly/ReadforPleasure? Transformative research from The Open University. #OURIP

OURIP.org Joined March 2017

1,503 Following 19.3K Followers

Followed by Ben Harris and UKLA

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet
Reading for Pleasure · 14/02/2021
NEW WEBSITE!

OURIP.org
better layout
save your faves
section for parents/carers
still a #ReadingforPleasure 'treasure-trove'

Enjoy @TeresaCremin

Aim 3: Engage as community of readers

Outline

Reading for Pleasure Book Club

We have also been members of the Reading for Pleasure Book Club. This has continued to expose us to lots of authors and books which we then review individually or collaboratively reflect on a book and discuss how these can be used in the classroom.

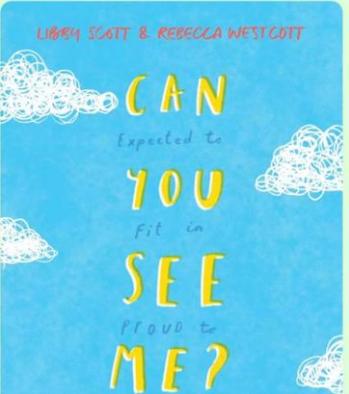
Suzie Page + 12 ● 3mo

Reading for Pleasure Book Club
Add any book recommendations you have with a short description to share with everyone!

SEND Characters

Kelsey Barham 5mo

Can you see me? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott



This book follows a young girl, Tally, through her first year of secondary school, highlighting the daily struggles people with autism can face which neurotypical people may not even think about. There are diary entries throughout the book written by the main character expressing her emotions and also giving insights into 'things people should know about her autism so that autism can be seen from another perspective.' I would recommend this to year 5/6 children, parents and teachers - it's really insightful and makes you think about things you do daily in the classroom which could help and/or hinder a child with autism's day. It's very powerful, emotional and thought-provoking book and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it!

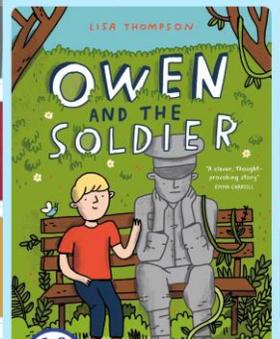
Suzie Page + 12 ● 3mo

Reading for Pleasure Book Club
Add any book recommendations you have with a short description to share with everyone!

Facing Fears

Kelsey Barham 4mo

Owen and the Soldier by Lisa Thompson



Owen is a shy boy who has a lot going on at home with his dad no longer around and he and his mum struggling to cope with this. After talking to a stone soldier statue in the local memorial park, a different, more emotional side to Owen is seen. However, the local council are planning to redevelop this area and destroy the soldier. The story unfolds to show Owen facing his fears of talking in front of others and about his dad to fight for what he believes is right. I would love to recommend this book to children in my class who do not feel comfortable or confident in sharing their ideas and views in front of others but who's voices should be heard. It would definitely empower them to face their fears and achieve more!

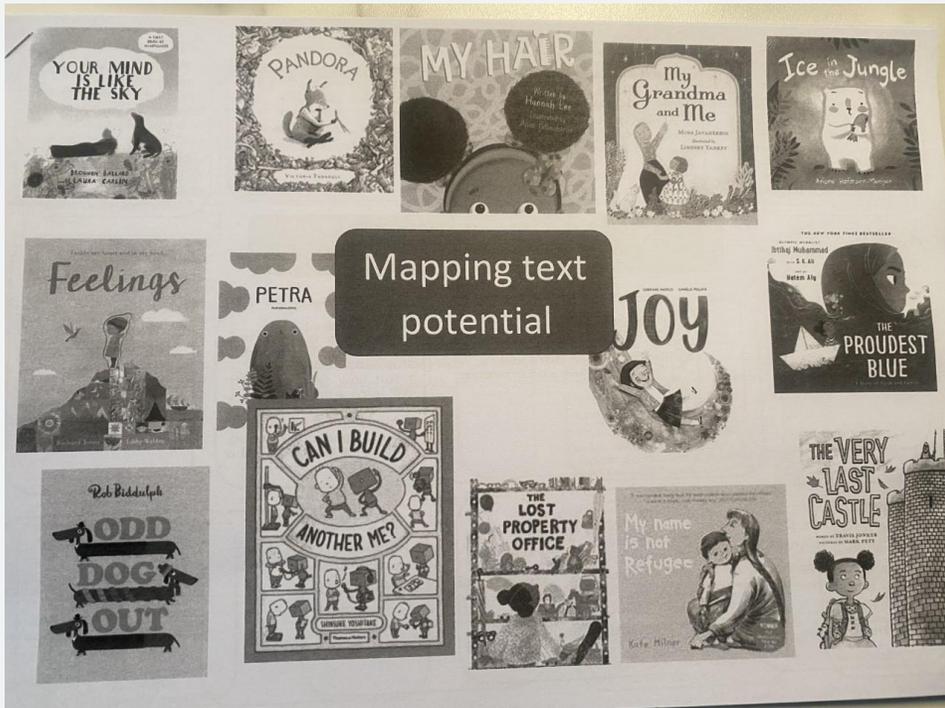
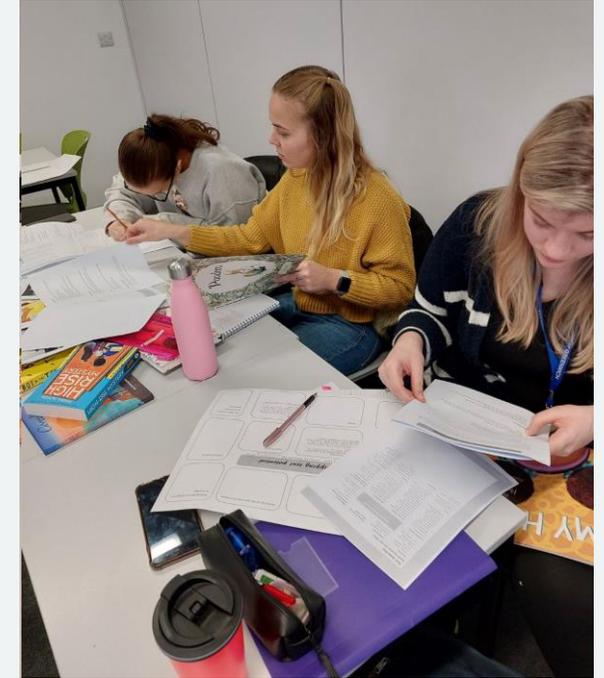


Aim 3: Engage as community of readers

Outline

Mapping Text Potential

In one of our sessions, we as trainee teachers read and evaluated the suitability of picture books and the potential they have within the classroom. This is intended to be an aid for teaching rather than a checklist.

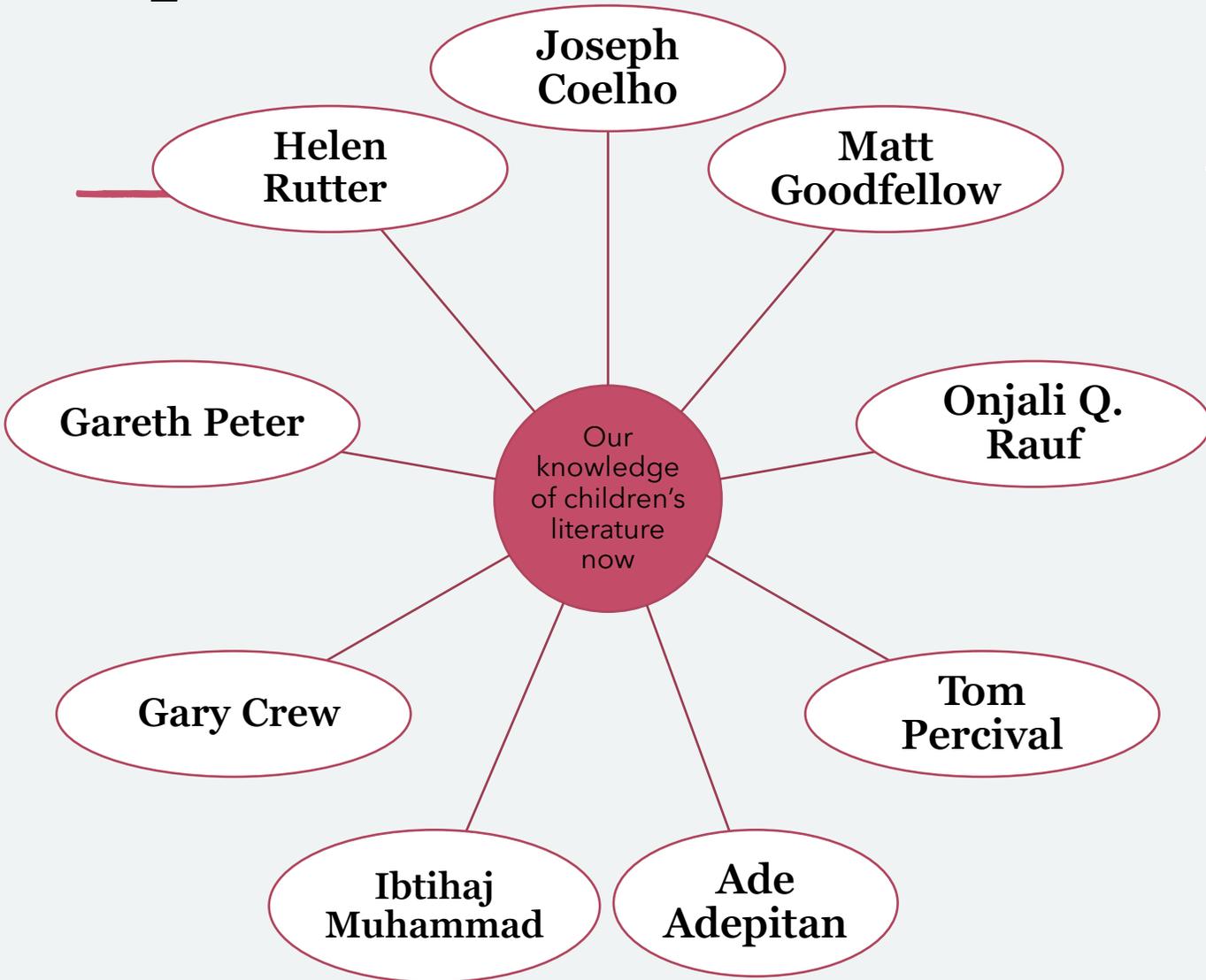


The main aim of this tool is to identify the challenges within the text and then outline opportunities for teaching.

We now have a collection of books along with their text potential which could be used within our future classrooms.

Aim 4 :
Opportunities for
teaching

Impact



- Accessed a range of new texts and authors from our sessions at university and by engaging as a community of readers. This has expanded our knowledge of authors, poets and a variety of texts.
- Feel more confident in using and recommending books within the classroom and igniting children's passion for reading.
- Through social media and the use of websites such as book trust, we feel that we will be able to develop our knowledge beyond this module and throughout our teaching career.

Reflections on Impact the TaRs research had on practice

It is evident that teacher's knowledge of children's literature is vital to developing a Reading for Pleasure pedagogy and fostering this within the classroom.

To put this into practice: use our expanded knowledge to provide a variety of literature in children's reading environment.

We want to continue making connections with other teachers, authors, poets and literacy organisations so that we can develop our knowledge.

We wish to develop our knowledge of other types of texts e.g., non-fiction, graphic novels.

Use this knowledge to share with children literature which relates to them as individuals.



References

Cremin, T., Bearne, E., Mottram, M. And Goodwin, P. (2008) 'Primary teachers as readers', *English in Education*, 42(1), pp. 8-23.

Cremin, T., Mottram, M., Collins, F., Powell, S. and Safford, K. (2014) *Building Communities of Engaged Readers: Reading for Pleasure*. Routledge: Oxon.

The Open University (2021) *Teachers' knowledge of children's literature and other texts*. Available at: <https://ourfp.org/finding/teachers-knowledge-of-childrens-literature-and-other-texts/> (Accessed: 3 December 2021)