

Blethering Together: Sustaining the Pleasure in Reading Conference

Saturday 17th June 2023 – 9.30-16.00



Make more of a difference to young readers' engagement

Informal text talk between readers plays a key role in motivating and sustaining the habit of reading. Such relaxed, non-assessed blethering about texts, about reading and about being a reader takes many forms and helps build reading communities. It deserves increased professional attention. This inspiring conference will offer participants' opportunities to explore research-informed practice and Norfolk Children's Book Centre and UKLA bookshops will enrich the day. Workshops will be led by the OU RfP team and talented teachers, offering engaging ways forward.



09.30 – 10.00

10.00 – 10.15

10.15 – 10.50

10.50 – 11.20

11.20 – 12.20

12.30 – 13.00

13.00 – 13.45

13.45 – 14.45

14.55 – 15.40

15.40 – 16.00

Registration and coffee

Research and Practice Welcome: Teresa Cremin

Practitioner Keynote: Jon Biddle: Walking the Walk means Talking the Talk

Coffee and workshops

Workshops A-E

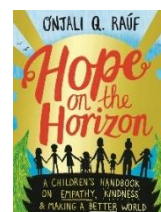
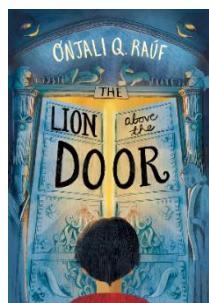
RfP Award Winners: Claire Nelson (Cheadle) and Amy Greatrex (Nottingham)

Lunch and bookshops

Workshops A-E

Author Keynote: Onjali Q. Raúf

Update on Reading Framework and Book Blether



Workshops at Blethering Together: Sustaining the Pleasure in Reading

A**Early readers and the treasure within: Identifying as readers in the Early Years****Amy Greatrex & Chantelle Bright****CMR01**

This workshop will explore ways that practitioners can instil a love of reading in the youngest children. Starting with the unique child we will branch out into the ways adults, places, spaces and community, can help children identify as readers with individual preferences, habits and reading interests. The power of telling children they are readers, respecting their choice and celebrating their reading identities will be highlighted, and modelling being Early Years Reading Teachers. Capital EY RT!

B**Seeing beneath the surface: The OU Picture Fiction Framework****Teresa Cremin & Rich Charlesworth****Mulberry Suite**

Picture fiction offers a rich resource for discussion and interaction. High quality visual texts not only motivate and engage readers of all ages to share and widen their views, and attend to those of others, but also serve to enhance young people's wellbeing through reading together in a relaxed space. Drawing on OU research and our new Picture Fiction Framework, we will explore strategies to enhance noticing, discussion and delight through looking deep beneath the surface.

C**A spot of blether: Opportunities for informal book chat****Jessica Blakeman, Helen MacKinnon & Claire Martin****CMR15**

Making time for a spot of blether is a key part of RfP pedagogy, so in this workshop we will examine ways in which practitioners can create and maintain an engaged and interactive community of readers in KS2 and KS3. Together we will discuss strategies that can encourage informal book chat in independent reading time, including types of text, reader relationships and social environments.

D**Navigating the maze of RfP and vocabulary learning****Kelly Ashley & Jenni Jealous****CMR11**

What do you read my Lord? Words, words, words. (Hamlet II.2)

Recreational reading enriches and widens pupils' vocabularies, and in this workshop we will explore the stalwart connection between RfP and vocabulary instruction. Approaches to building wide and varied opportunities for reading aloud to support communication will also be investigated and practical support strategies for navigating the RfP-vocabulary maze offered.

E**Moving from silent to social: Book blether in secondary school spaces****Lucas Maxwell & Hannah Grace****Spindle & Walnut**

This workshop will explore approaches to supporting reading for pleasure with older readers, including widening the reading offered, and building reading networks through the power of choice and diversity. We will emphasise the need to prioritise the creation of affectively engaging opportunities and supportive recreational reading experiences across secondary schools.

Registration Details:**A bargain at only £40!! Register at Eventbrite**