



Grange Primary School

Pursuing excellence for every child

‘Sell Me A Story’ Promoting teachers as readers

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School Context



- Grange Primary School is located in Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire.
- We currently have 44.4% of the school registered as Pupil Premium and 28% of children on role registered as SEND.
- Our school has recently achieved the bronze reading badge and completed the Reading for Pleasure course lead by the English Hub. Our school's next step is to achieve the silver reading badge.
- We have a fabulous library which we use as a shared reading area with themed terms. The children meet with other year groups to enjoy a story and read for pleasure. This is a delightful activity which allows our older children to act as roles models for our younger students.

Our inspiration and rationale

“ Teachers are the best people to promote a love of reading because children, particularly young children, care what their teachers think about the stories they read aloud. If teachers show they love the story, the children are likely to respond in the same way.”

(The Reading Framework 2023)

- A recent school survey identified that only **11%** of our children are read to every night.
- The primary focus for our development plan was for children to view books as something fun to do, something worthwhile, an activity they wanted to actively engage in. Not passively flick through pages. Ultimately, we're striving to build a reading culture where our children truly value books.
- From this an idea sparked. An idea that would develop our shared reading area, promote reading aloud, create informal book talk and enhance independent reading time.
- **But best of all it would showcase our teachers as readers as our survey revealed the modelling of reading is lacking at home.**

OU research inspiration and rationale...

TaRs (Cremin et al., 2014) found that in order to foster RfP effectively, teachers need to develop:

A considerable **knowledge of children's literature** and other texts.

The issue is this is something that takes time. This is our ultimate goal, but stepping stones are required to achieve this.

I wanted to create a way that showcased the teachers as readers without the burden of instantly having to read mountains of books for now at least.





Enter 'Sell me a story'

This is strongly based on the principles of **A reading for pleasure pedagogy** which include:

- Social reading environments
- Reading aloud
- Independent reading
- Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations

(from Cremin et al., 2014, above).



Aims

- **'Sell me a story'** is a whole school approach showing teachers as readers.
- It allows teachers to read aloud a text they love to children.
- It gives children time to explore new stories.
- Creates informal book talk.
- And enhances independent reading time.

Implementation PART 1

- Set a date for your teachers to do their hard sell. (We chose World Book Day)
- Host an assembly: in the assembly the teachers are given 30 seconds to get competitive and put their case forward for why they have the best book.
- The children then line up with the teacher who has the book they want to hear.
- Teachers disperse with their children and spend 20 minutes listening to the story.
- Teachers then discuss what the children liked about the story.



Note:
Our school operates as a two-form entry so we ran the assemblies in phases. (EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2)



Implementation PART 2

- Children then reconvene in their normal classes.
- The children then have to sell the story they heard to the other children.
- The children then vote for the book they would like to hear as a class.



Implementation PART 3

- The books are then put in our shared reading area for independent reading time.
- The bonus of this is that the children will be armed with the knowledge of some of the books so that they can informally discuss and share what they know with others who may not have heard a story yet.



Impact

- Children showed a **higher regard for the teacher recommended books** in our shared reading area. These vanish off the shelves quickly during library time.
- An **improvement in staff informal book talk**. During the process of staff choosing their text for the event staff spoke positivity about a variety of books sharing their favourite stories with one another.
- The impact of the 40-50 minute activity is ongoing as its impact is still present in our social reading space.
- Positive book talk occurred between students.

Children's Book Talk

I liked the part when the snake ate the teacher.

I wanted to see if it frightened me but it didn't. I like the book though.

I enjoy choosing stories.

It takes you to a magical world.

My favourite part was when he got squished by the car.

Reflections on impact the TaRs research had on practice

- My biggest take away from this event is the **power of the teacher's voice**.
- Children love to grab a book recommended by a teacher.
- Children need to hear teachers proudly talking about books and sharing stories with enthusiasm.
- **To develop a true passion for reading we must ignite a spark.** We must model talking about books positively and get the children excited.
- For children to be able to participate in informal book talk they need to have seen it so that they can replicate it. It was wonderful watching the children being able to spread their knowledge of books as teachers have explicitly model this during 'Sell me a story'.



Next steps for our practice...

- The first time trialling 'Sell me a story' showed many positive gains for our school and it's impact on our cultural reading practises.
- So as a school we have decided to run this event again next year but on a termly basis.
- A teachers' reading library will be set up using the latest award-winning texts. Teachers will be able to browse the selection and choose the text they would like most for the next sell me a story event.
- This again will provide another stepping stone for our staff to become reading teachers.

Award Winning Book Sources

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk>

<https://ukla.org/awards/ukla-book-award>

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/lollies>

