

High Quality Picture Books

Why we should use them from EYFS to Year 6 for cross curricular planning.

- Picture books often contain more sophisticated language than chapter books. The language is rich, exposing children to the joys of exciting new vocabulary and the many ways a story can be spun.
- If you want to teach grammar in an interesting way picture books are ideal especially for a range of sentence structures and punctuation as well as metaphors, similes...etc.
- Picture books teach about story structure, narrative, rhetorical devices, the author's voice and the art of storytelling.
- Picture books often introduce an unwritten sub-plot, tell mini-stories that are not in the text or actually contradict the text inviting the brain to make connections in a way that chapter books generally don't.
- Picture books are good for social and emotional development. They are a fast way to spark discussion and to develop critical thinking.
- The art of picture books are superb, exquisite, surreal, extraordinary. They are an art form and show a wide range of visual expression.
- Comparisons can be made with other texts.
- Learning to read between the lines, seeing the gap between pictures and text filled by child's imagination

A selection of favourite picture books should be stored in your class reading corner so that children have access to them. It is important that the children are given the opportunity to read and re-read them, so that each time they read a picture book they discover something new. The familiarity of a book can have a positive emotional effect.

Incorporate picture books as part of 'Reading Roundabout.' We will be introducing each class to several or more new books each term and develop their critical thinking and comprehension skills as well as the sheer enjoyment of having a story read to them.

Use Picture Books as well as Chapter Books for guided reading sessions.

For further inspiration see:

Visual Literacy Pack at:

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/celebration/resources/Visual%20Literacy%20Pack.pdf>

Matt Tobin List of High Quality Picture books for Cross Curricular Planning. <http://mattobin.blogspot.co.uk/>