TeachMeet

Using texts to link geography and English

Caroline Freedman
Teacher, Martin Primary School, East Finchley
Tuesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March
Geography and English

- Often very limited time for geography
- Can be least favourite subject for many teachers
- By linking quality texts it raises the profile of geography and brings it to the forefront of the curriculum
- Enables children to make links and understand complex subjects or issues in geography
- Can introduce relevant topics in a fun/interesting way
When the Giant Stirred by Celia Godkin

- Legend of a Volcanic Island
- Tells the story of the inhabitants of an island in the South Pacific deal with ‘the giant’
- Beautiful illustrations that can be used to stimulate setting descriptions
- Simple and easy to follow
- Good for recounts and newspaper reports
- Children soon realise it is a volcano and can’t wait for it to erupt
Teaching ideas

- Read the book in sections - asked children what they thought would happen next
- Looked on a world map to see where the island was located
- Links with learning of tectonic plates and the ring of fire
- Before the volcano erupted the birds flew away
- After effects - tsunami
- Inhabitants displaced - effects on people
- Island is left uninhabited for many years
- Eventually life returns to the island - regeneration
- Able to refer to the story when learning about volcanoes in geography
Tuesday 22nd September

Language: Write several using interesting adjectives.

Long, long ago, there was a green island populated by a singing, gentle sea. Turtles came to bury their eggs in the shining, magnificent moonlight.

In the forest, butterflies sported their colorful wings.

Also, there was a blue lagoon where children fish. Swim past the hidden, sheltered Parkinson Reef.

In the small village, people went fishing in the blue lagoon and champed them up for lunch.

In the forest, there was a cone-shaped mountain that let out a geothermal puff of smoke. When the giant mumbled, people went up the mountain and saw nice sprawling flowers beautiful.

- Good - you have used a wide range of adjectives.
- Rewrite this sentence to make it clearer. In the small village, people went fishing in the blue lagoon and champed them up for lunch.

Wednesday 22nd September

Language: I can write a setting description using connecting adjectives.

The astonishing, swirling birds fly in the light of day while the arching, arching, arching, sweet, sweet butterflies soar in the sky. The warm, warm breeze whips the soft, soft leaves.

The vibrant flowers in a terraced pattern attract the striped, yellow and black Carpenter bees who take on the color. The white and pink blossoms take over the wooden bees. The soft, soft breeze blows side to side whilst the wild breeze.

The birds soar in the sky through the wind while the butterflies join them. The caught, hardened solid rocks, strewn into the rivers, blow gently shimmering and shining in the sun. Sunny early day the wind walls in the sky, the days go by so quickly in the moment.
The story of Isatou Ceesay and how she made a difference

Plastic bags are great - cheap and easy to use

In the book, they soon become a problem when goats swallow them

Isatou has a plan and uses the plastic bags to transform her community

Simple language

Lots of repetition

Set in The Gambia

Shows how resilience and perseverance can really pay off

True story
Teaching ideas

- Pros and cons of plastic combined with writing paragraphs
- Letter writing - to Isatou saying how the story made them feel
- Revision of 3R’s - reduce, reuse, recycle and introduction to 5R’s - rethink and refuse
- Differences between UK and rural West Africa
- Great to show how one person can make a difference
- DT project making something useful out of recyclable materials
English

Lots of us think that plastic is bad but many of the things that we use everyday are made of plastic for good and useful reasons. A lot of our electrical items are covered in plastic to protect them from breaking and to stop us being electrocuted or hurt. Plastic also keeps our food fresher for longer to stop food waste. Plastic is light but strong so it can be used in planes, cars and other vehicles. When they are lighter, they use less fuel and that reduces pollution. Plastic is water proof and lasts long so we can use it for clothing and it is also used in hospitals.

However, plastic is very bad for our environment, especially single use plastic. It takes lots of energy to make plastic. Plastic rubbish ends up hurting, trapping and killing lots of wildlife. Animals on land and in the sea eat the plastic and then the chemicals in the plastic poison them. The plastic that ends up in the oceans makes big piles called trash islands. These look horrible and are harmful to sea creatures and birds. Plastic does not decompose so we should only use what we really need and recycle as much as we can.

Dear Isaya,

I was captivated by how marvellous the book “One Plastic Bag” was. It really encouraged me to make something out of things that people could have thrown away. I really enjoyed how the book was based on your real adventures in your life.

I thought how wonderful and bagging that a sew woman saved lots of animals and helped N’gaa.

I have a couple of questions to ask. How did you come up with an idea so great? Have N’gaa and the people in N’gaa changed?

I hope everyone follows your lead and stops plastic pollution.

Kind regards,
Lula

24 Huntington Road
London NW 9DU
28/01/2021
Katie in London by James Mayhew

- Katie’s grandma takes her and her brother Jack into London and promptly falls asleep
- The lion in Trafalgar Square comes to life and takes Katie and Jack on their backs all around London
- Beautiful illustrations with lots of details
- Describing characters/feelings
- Vocabulary - bustled, gazed, chugged
- Introduce similes
Teaching ideas

► Map Katie, Jack and the lion’s route around London
► Different functions of London - port, tourism, home to the Queen, Parliament, retail
► Link to local area - Caroline in East Finchley
► Drawing maps
► Compass directions
Caroline in East Finchley

East Finchley seemed very busy to Caroline. She held on to Grandpa with one hand and her little brother, Milo, with the other. They trudged down the High Street and towards East Finchley Station.

When they arrived, Grandpa was tired.

"I'll just have a small snooze," he yawned. "You two stay here by the entrance."

Caroline and Milo looked up at the statue on top of the station. Caroline pretended to fire an arrow up at it. As she did so the Archer turned from grey to a glorious green colour.

Walking up hill they were soon at another grand building.

"You can see the whole of London from up here," gasped Milo.

Seeing the signs, Caroline and Milo realised this was Alexandra Palace.

At one end of the building was a metal tower that was as tall as a skyscraper.

"This is where the first TV broadcast was made in 1936." The Archer explained as Caroline and Milo looked up in amazement.
Other books

- **The Promise by Nicola Davies**
  - Tells the story of how the narrator makes a promise to an old lady whose bag she steals

- **Window and Belonging by Jeannie Baker**
  - Both books look at changing cities. Window follows a house as the land around it turns into a city. Belonging follows a house as the city around it becomes greener.
  - Use as stimulus for thinking about improvements to school or local area or problems with urban development