

BIGFOOT BOOK CLUB

***"I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."* Roald Dahl**

The Department for Education recently reported that 89% of Children should be able to read properly by the time they leave primary school, but 1 in 5 still leave unable to read well enough to do well at secondary school - a figure that rises to 1 in 3 among the most disadvantaged children. The Bigfoot Book Club aims to encourage young people to engage in reading as an enjoyable and social activity rather than a chore for school.

How the Bigfoot Book Club Works

Operating as either a stand-alone weekly after school club (1 hour) or an after school or lunch time club as part of a full day 'Raising Attainment' project (45/30 minutes respectively) 10-15 students, together with the help of a Bigfooter, will explore a chosen book through varying exercises such as reviews and alternate endings, to re-enactments and staged readings. The key to the success of the Bigfoot Book Club is drawing the termly book inspiration from the young people themselves; their interests, their passions and their ideas.

Bigfoot Book Club possible focus suggestions/ideas

- "Up for a laugh" - Comedy
- "A (graphic) novel idea" - Comics
- "Puns are bad but poetry is verse" - Poetry
- "I need a hero" - Action genre
- "Keep it classy" - Classical literature

BOYS, BOYS, BOYS:

The **Boys, Boys, Boys** was developed by Bigfoot's Facilitator in Residence, Adrian Benn, in collaboration with Jody Hendra of Fairway Primary School. The main aim of the project was to re-engage disaffected boys and boost self esteem through a programme of engaging and inspiring workshops. These workshops focussed on creative arts with a street culture edge.

Within each fortnightly two hour workshop, the boys created work using a variety of art forms including Graffiti, Beat Boxing, Rapping and Comic strips. These art forms were used to encourage engagement within wider school life, with a focus placed on:

- Decision making – Allowing the boys to take ownership of the work by making key decisions
- Bursts of attention – Working in short bursts of focused attention
- Behaviour management – The group create the set of rules that they work by including the consequences for breaking these and rewards for working by them.

- Tactile/kinaesthetic learning - Allow the group the opportunity to play and learn through doing.
- Peer assessment – Constantly encouraging the boys to recognise each others' strengths, talent or positive behaviour.

Bigfoot and the school tracked each student's progress in their national curriculum levels before, during, and after the project in Reading, Writing and Maths. The results of this programme can be found within the programme case study (available upon request)

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

How would your students feel about working together to create an editorial team for a new daily newspaper- investigating, researching and writing about their interests, their passions and their dreams...

News stories, whether on television or in magazines and newspapers, tell you what's happening locally and nationally and are the key to celebrating triumphs, commiserating losses and generally sharing issues to ignite the interest of others. Therefore, imagine the impact of allowing a group of disengaged and underachieving students to become reporters, journalists and editors of a combined paper that runs stories about what interests them. Whether it be pop culture, games and sports, local events, fashion, animals, computer games or television, students will be encouraged to take on a 'role' within their team in order to research and write a variety of articles.

Helped by their Bigfoot facilitator, students will discuss social issues, share opinions, and debate about controversial topics using a range of creative games and activities designed to get them thinking and talking. The aim is that by giving students a forum to voice their thoughts and opinions as journalists and newspaper editors, they will be inspired to become independent learners inside and outside of the classroom.

Students will

- Identify the purpose of a newspaper
- Explore a variety of stories and themes ordinarily found newspaper
- Discover the different roles needed to produce a diverse and interesting newspaper
- Create a unique joint piece of work to be shared with their teachers and peers.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A BOOKING
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