

Case Study: Frome Story Writing Workshop Frome Library, Somerset

Who was the project for?

The one-off workshop was for 8 – 11 year olds who were invited by Frome Library to create a story about a cloak of invisibility. This was inspired by a cloak which has been hand knit and dyed by local people and is on display in Frome Library.

What did we do?

To get the children in the mood for legends of cloaks they heard the Legend of the Three Brothers from Tales of Beadle the Baird by JK Rowling and then heard an extract from Harry Potter and Philosophers Stone.

We talked about what makes a good short story and some hints and tips to remember.

They had a chance to think about their own settings for a story about a Cloak of Invisibility and wrote a paragraph describing this. Several children had a chance to read their descriptions aloud. It was great to hear the rich variety in settings and ideas.

They then had a chance to create their own characters using cardboard cut out people, colours, fabric etc. As they created these characters, they brought them to life for their story. Once they had formed their lead characters, they begin writing the stories. Again, it was interesting to see the range of characters that had been created and to hear the children's stories about a cloak of invisibility.

What were the challenges?

We only had an hour and a half to hear about the cloak, enjoy some stories and do some writing!

What were the outcomes/feedback?

19 children took part in the workshop and all of them said they'd enjoyed it. The stories they wrote are being featured in a collection that the library are producing to accompany the cloak as it travels around Somerset.