



Case Study: Harrow Way Community School, Andover

Who was the project for?

A Pageturners Project was run as a short term after school club for young women from Year 9. These young people had been identified as needing additional support to read more books and who would benefit from the emotional literacy aspects of the project. A group of seven young women took part.

Who else was involved?

The Assistant Headteacher/Senco was the key contact from Harrow Way Community School and he put the group together, using funding provided by the LEAP - this provides funds to run after school clubs and activities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Some additional equipment was provided through Pageturners funding from Unltd, this included the books that the group were able to choose.

What did we do?

We ran a four week project (each session was an hour and a half) which would encourage the group to read more and also engage them in some of the themes/issues from the book we selected to look at. The book the group selected was "Diary of a Chav" by Grace Dent. This book gave great scope to look at perceptions of others, image, stereotyping and ultimately overcoming some of these issues to fulfill ambitions. The group designed t-shirts, did some drama, collage, played some games and listened to extracts of the book being read aloud. Lesley designed a "book personality profile quiz" for the group to do and from that selected several books they might enjoy. The group were then able to choose one book to keep – and they had great fun doing this. The group were provided with a fish and chip supper at the end of each session.

What were the challenges?

This group were very engaged in the project and did not pose any real challenges in terms of behaviour or getting involved etc. Games and creative methods worked so well with this group in drawing out their thoughts and feelings.

What were the outcomes/feedback?

Basic evaluation was undertaken at the end of every session and each week which always came out as being very positive. We undertook more detailed evaluation at the end of the project – using creative methods to get feedback on different aspects. This involved decorating a christmas tree to link it back to the book!

The group were asked why they had come to the group in the first place:

- Because I thought it would be a great opportunity to help my reading and it was good place to have fun and socialise
- Because I love reading and I thought it would teach me about books, and it did.
- It sounded like a fun thing to try x 2
- To get more interested in books
- Like the sound of fish and chips

They were then asked if it was what they had expected and why:

- No, because I was expecting having to just sit there and listen to a book being read to us all the time but it was much better than that!
- No, I thought it would be different - not as interactive or creative. I loved every bit of it!
- The group was much better than what I expected, because I thought we would just sit and read to each other!
- It was more fun.
- No, it was more cause we got to do lots of different stuff.

All of the group said that one of the outcomes of the project would be that they would read more.

The things they enjoyed most were; the t-shirt designs, the chav and posh pictures (creating stereotypes for a play), listening to the book, doodling while the book was being read, the fame game, and the fish and chips. The t-shirt design was the most popular. The group also really enjoyed the personality quiz and choosing the second book.

The group were asked to write down something they didn't like/would change about the project and why on post-its and fold these up so they were anonymous. This is what they said:

- I didn't like only getting four sessions
- Nothing, it's been all fun!
- I wish it had been longer than four weeks 😞
- We only had the session once a week and we only had four

- We only had four sessions – it was fun and I really enjoyed it.
- We only had four sessions – it was really fun and I wanted it to go on for longer.

The aspect of the project most of the group selected as being best were the games and activities that related to the book. One person said the style of project (how it was run) was the best thing and another selected having a chance to choose books.