



Case Study: St. Peters Primary School

Who was the project for?

Pageturners Project at St.Peters School was set up as an after school club open to years 5 and 6. This is where Pageturners initially started and the whole idea grew from this first project. The first group at St. Peter's had 6 members and this quickly grew to thirteen. This particular project is ongoing and runs on a monthly basis. Members leave when they finish school in year 6 and new members are recruited in September or as spaces become available. The project has been running since March 2009.

Who else was involved?

The Literacy Co-ordinator at the school is the link for the project, parents are involved by buying or getting the books needed from the library.

What did we do?

Each term group members get a booklist and dates of the monthly sessions. They read a book in time for each session and Lesley facilitates a series of related games, activities and discussion based around the book they have just read. They have a different book review sheet each time to draw out their thoughts and feelings about the books. A wide range of books have been read so far including; The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume, Someday Angeline by Louis Sachar, Varjak Paw by SF Said, Pigheart Boy by Malorie Blackman and Bridge To Terabithia by Katherine Paterson. The group have taken part in activities such as debates, writing scripts and acting, role play, a mock courtroom scene, scrap modelling, lots of games, discussions and other arts and crafts activities.

What were the challenges?

The initial challenge was selling the idea of a book group as something exciting to do as an after school club. The first group was quite small with 6 members, but positive feedback began to spread through other pupils and the group soon grew to thirteen members. Another challenge is trying to get boys to join the group, currently the group is all girls.

What were the outcomes/feedback?

After almost a year of running the project evaluation was undertaken with parents and children to see what they'd most enjoyed and what the benefits of a long term project like this can be. All of the parents said their children enjoy attending and like all aspects of the project (talking about books, trying new

books, doing activities and having discussions). The majority noticed a difference in their childrens reading citing examples like; "Her openness to talk about the books and her feelings that are connected." "My child is more open to new authors." "She has finally finished a very thick book she has been meaning to finish for ages." "Reading more." "Has got more into books." "My child loves this group and has expanded her book knowledge and choice of authors/books.

Changes in the group members have become apparant as they become more articulate in their views and feelings about the topics and issues in the book. Their group work skills have improved and their confidence in speaking in front of a group and their ability to listen to each others views have grown.

The feedback from group members themselves was very positive, with 12 people rating it 5 out of 5 and one person rating it 4. Reading new books, the activities and having discussion about topics/themes were the things that came out as most enjoyable for them. Nine of the group said they felt the project had changed their reading habits and the other four said the project had maybe changed things. Some reasons were; reading more, trying different books, opened up to more authors, encouraged to read more variety of books, reading more regularly. Eleven members said they discussed and shared the books at home with family members and told their family about what they'd been doing in Pageturners. One girl told me her older sister always waits to borrow the next Pageturners book because it's so good, another said her older brother had started reading one of the books and liked it (he doesn't normally read) and so anecdotal feedback shows the project reaching wider than the group who attend in this longer term, sustained initiative.

The comments the children made about the group on their evaluation sheets make it clear that they get a lot of enjoyment from this type of activity. Here are a selection of their thoughts on Pageturners:

"It's really good, you should do it for every school."

"It's fun."

"It's cool, awesome, No 1, makes me enjoy reading more and gets my mum to buy more books."

"I feel like my reading really improved since I've joined Pageturners."

"It's amazing."

"I feel more confident and I interact and speak louder. Pageturners Rule!"

Julia Harle, Headteacher at St. Peters said: " *All the children have benefitted from Pageturners. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for reading and hear their opinions about books. They have passed on their enthusiasm to their classes and teachers. Pageturners have helped the school have relevant and appropriate books for the children to read so as a school we know we are challenging all readers with books they want to read. I am sure every headteacher wants to see their children just loving books.*"