

BOOK FOCUS



Name: Diary of a Chav
by Grace Dent

Age suitability: 14+

Story: The hilarious diary of 14-year-old Shiraz Bailey Wood. Funny, moving, warm and much deeper than it might seem, the book builds up a stereotype and then blows it to pieces. The character Shiraz makes the point that labels mean nothing and that all people are individuals.

Issues and themes:

Perceptions of others, stereotyping, image and ambition.

Activities used by

Pageturners: T-shirt designing to show outer image vs reality; collage of scenes from the book; games looking at ambition, perception and reality; creating stereotyped characters for a drama; doodling; and reading sections of the book aloud.

A young person's views on the project we ran using this book:

"The project that we did was fun and creative but at the same time it's educational. One of the books we have read is interesting and we had a lot of books to choose from. I would definitely recommend it."

Pageturners

opening books, opening minds

July 2010



Creating a New York scene with children from St. Peter's Primary School

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE PAGETURNERS NEWSLETTER!

Each edition will provide you with information about what's been happening with Pageturners – plus updates on anything relevant or related!

For those of you who don't already know about Pageturners, it's a project that uses a book group setting to work creatively with older children, young people or even families together. It is well known that literacy levels have an impact on many areas of life. A report written by the Literacy Trust documents the impact literacy can have on economic wellbeing, aspirations, family circumstances, mental and physical health, and cultural and civic participation. Pageturners aims to promote informal learning in a fun and involving way; explore thought-provoking, difficult or challenging themes; use the themes within a book to get a group to explore their own experiences, thoughts and feelings; broaden reading interests and encourage a general interest in learning; develop critical thinking; give people confidence to discuss their thoughts and ideas in a group setting; increase literacy skills; and encourage a view that reading is a fun and worthwhile pastime.

Have a look at the new website

www.pageturnersproject.co.uk to find out more.

Social entrepreneurs award

Pageturners was awarded a small grant from UnLtd.

UnLtd is a charity that supports social entrepreneurs by providing funding, support and advice in growing their ideas.

Lesley Taylor, who runs Pageturners, attended an awards day in London where she met an exciting mix of people who had been supported by UnLtd.

The grant has enabled Pageturners to provide books to young people who have taken part in sessions, as well as buying lots of arts equipment and other necessary resources to make the project a success. Visit www.unltd.org.uk to find out more about the grants and support they can offer.

Here's a taster of what Pageturners has been getting up to over the last six months...

Andover Education Centre

Pageturners started a 5-session project at Andover Education Centre – a Pupil Referral Unit – in February 2010. This was funded through a local community project called Turnaround. The project was for a group of five year 9 young men and each session was an hour and half long, run during class time. The aim was to explore the theme of identity through the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. We also looked at related themes and other issues from the book. The project was very successful in engaging the group – see the case study online at www.pageturnersproject.co.uk

Harrow Way Community School

This was a four week after-school project with a group of seven young women from disadvantaged backgrounds. The project was set up using funding from Extended Schools. The group selected a book (from a choice of five) and we looked at 'Diary of a Chav' by Grace Dent. This gave scope to explore perceptions of others, stereotyping

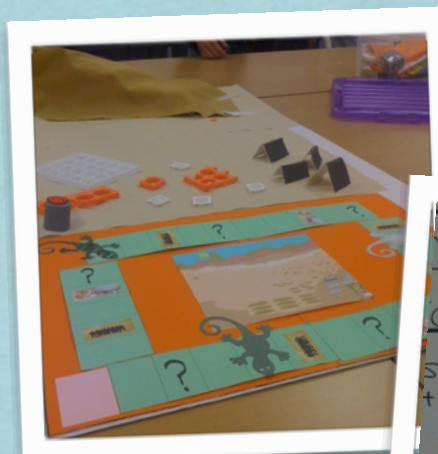
and also image. The group got a copy of the book to keep and – having completed a book personality quiz – were able to select another book to try as well. This project ran in May and June 2010.

St. Peter's School, Chippenham

This 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 six members and it 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.

PROJECT ROUND UP



Playing the 'Holes' board game with a group from Andover Education Centre. The group created the landscape of Camp Green Lake from the book by Louis Sachar

Creating stereotyped characters for a drama scene with the group from Harrow Way Community School. The book was 'Diary of a Chav'.



QUOTES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE, TEACHERS & PARENTS



Children and young people:

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

"It's cool, awesome...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."

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

"The group was much better than what I expected, because I thought we would just sit and read to each other!"

"Well, if you like reading or if you don't I assure you, you will have fun and enjoy yourself!"

Teachers and parents:

Headteacher at St. Peter's: "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 has helped the school have relevant and appropriate books for the children."

Literacy Co-ordinator at Andover Education Centre: "Lesley was very receptive to information on the learning difficulties/styles of the group and adapted her content accordingly. Her ideas were imaginative, she was well-organised and had a good style of delivery."

Parent from St. Peter's: "My child loves this group and has expanded her book knowledge and choice of authors/books."