



# The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

Knowledge is Power



CHLOE AND ABBIE WYATT



UNIVERSITY of  
GREENWICH

# *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*

Michael Rosen

Helen Oxenbury

## **CONTEXT**

We are currently third year BA Hons Primary Education students at the University of Greenwich.

We are completing an enhancement course based on children's literature and reading for pleasure (RfP).

We both have experience in teaching within schools, ranging through year groups 2 to 5.



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# OU RESEARCH INSPIRATION AND RATIONALE

Cremin et al. (2014) identified that in order to support children to read for pleasure, it is vitally important that teachers have good subject knowledge: that they have a good knowledge of children's literature. The Teachers as Readers (TaRs) research identified that although many teachers choose to read for pleasure, many lack knowledge around current children's literature. It is clear that this will have a negative impact on children's reading for pleasure as they will not be exposed to a wide range of high-quality texts. We chose to focus on this aspect of the research findings as we believed that this was an area that we had limited knowledge in; therefore we wanted to develop and explore our understanding and knowledge of a wide a range of children's literature. This area was also of interest to us because we know that teachers need to be familiar with engaging and appropriate literature and deepening our knowledge will positively impact on our future teaching practice.

Rachel  
BRIGHT

Jim  
FIELD

## AIMS

- ▶ We aimed to reflect on our current knowledge of children's literature through self-reflection on children's books and authors.
- ▶ We also aimed to show how we have enhanced our knowledge of children's literature over the duration of this course, through different workshops and our own research.
- ▶ We aimed to engage as part of a community of readers to help us broaden our knowledge of children's literature.

PICTURED BY  
OLIVER JEFFERS

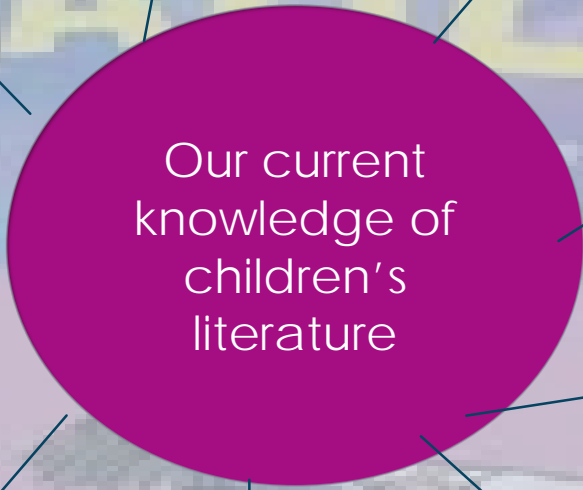
# OUTLINE

# ROALD DAHL

# ENID BLYTON

# JACQUELINE WILSON

This showed us how limited our existing knowledge was.



Enid Blyton

Roald Dahl

Julia Donaldson

Jacqueline Wilson

Michael Morpurgo

J. K Rowling

Anthony Browne

Rainbow Fairies Collection

Horrid Henry

# TRIP TO THE CENTRE FOR LITERACY IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, LONDON

## GRANDDAD'S ISLAND



Our trip to the CLPE's library, open to all teachers and trainees, highlighted to us the huge range of children's books there is. We looked at many different picture books and novels for age groups and across various different topics.

Benji Davies



# UNIVERSITY SESSIONS



Exploring human rights within picture books

During university sessions we explored a range of different children's texts. These sessions gave us a insight into what is available to support children and the ways in which children's literature discusses and tackles serious themes and important values.

## **Book Recommendations:**

### **BaME:**

5-7 Years: Ruby's Worry, Billy and the Beast, Ravi's Roar

7-9 Years: Mo. Lottie and the Junkers, Sam Wu, Planet Omar

9-11 Years: High Rise mystery, Boy in the Tower, Knights and Bikes

### **Disability:**

5-7: We're all wonders, Amazing, What the jackdaw saw

7-9: Me and Mister P, Toad Attack, Magical Kingdom of Birds

9-11: Runaway Robots, El Deafo, Max and the Millions

### **LGBTQ:**

5-7: and tango makes three, Julian is a mermaid, We are family

7-9: The great big book of families, the girl with two dads

9-11: Drama, George, The night owl and dogfish

# OUR OWN RESEARCH

For ages 5-8 and up



### **Angel on the Roof**

**Author:** Shirley Hughes

When Lewis finds an angel living on the roof of his house, they form a quick friendship. Soon, the people living under the angel feel the effect of its goodness in their lives. An atmospheric and timeless story, full of Shirley Hughes' trademark warmth.

[Read more about Angel on the Roof](#)



### **Bad Nana: That's Snow Business**

**Author:** Sophy Henn

What happens when Bad Nana gets involved with the Winter Wonderland Variety Show? The third book in Sophy Henn's young middle grade series is brilliant, and the final message about having fun is pitch perfect.

[Read more about Bad Nana: That's Snow Business](#)



### **Cyborg Cat and the Night Spider**

**Author:** Ade Adepitan **Illustrator:** Carl Pearce

Ade gets mysterious messages from the Night Spider – is he really in danger, and is he a superhero? Ade is a bright, active, positive, exciting character who drives a thrilling plot. The book also shows that there's no reason why a superhero can't use a wheelchair.

[Read more about Cyborg Cat and the Night Spider](#)

Charlotte



against white space.

*Winter Sleep, A Hibernation Story* by Sean Taylor and Alex Morss, illustrated by Cinyee Chiu (Words & Pictures) 9780711242838 Sean Taylor is a master storyteller. He weaves words that draw in readers and hold them captivated. This quiet, enticing walk into the natural world, in which he partners with ecologist Alex Morss, is no exception. We begin the story in summer, with a young boy staying at Granny Sylvie's, on a walk to their secret glade, taking in the wonder of the vibrant wildlife all around. We next meet them in winter, with the delights of the summer hidden; only able to be visualised by the boy through Granny Sylvie's rich and vivid descriptions. Readers, however, get a peek into this secret world through Cinyee Chiu's carefully depicted illustrations. These work alongside the rich, poetic language to create a sense of awe, wonder and joy in the natural world. An appended information section provides an illuminating guide for young explorers. A beautifully produced book by Quarto imprint Words & Pictures, who also published another of my favourite picturebooks of the year, *A Little Bit Different* by Claire Alexander.



*The Space We're In* by Katya Balen, illustrated by Laura Carlin (Bloomsbury) 9781526601940 The bookmark which came with my copy of this book summed it up in three words; jaw-dropping, heartbreaking and hopeful. That, it certainly was. Katya Balen's expertly crafted and emotionally engaging storytelling, mixed with Laura Carlin's insightfully chosen illustrations take the reader on a rollercoaster journey of emotions. The first person narrative, told in the utterly authentic voice of ten year-old Frank, immediately brings us into the immensely loving, but difficult world of his family, turned upside down since the birth of his brother, Max, who is autistic. Touching moments of joy, friendship and understanding sit alongside frustration, shame and strain, making for a carefully painted and realistic picture of their everyday life. Chapter titles presented in Frank's favourite number-letters-spiral cipher code, draw us further into his world and fascinations, heightening our empathy for him. A sudden tragedy brings the family to the depths of despair, but the love and understanding they have for each other brings a hopeful and uplifting ending. The book that made me cry and smile the most all year, and has stayed with me since. Just beautiful.

[www.clpe.org.uk](http://www.clpe.org.uk)

@clpe1

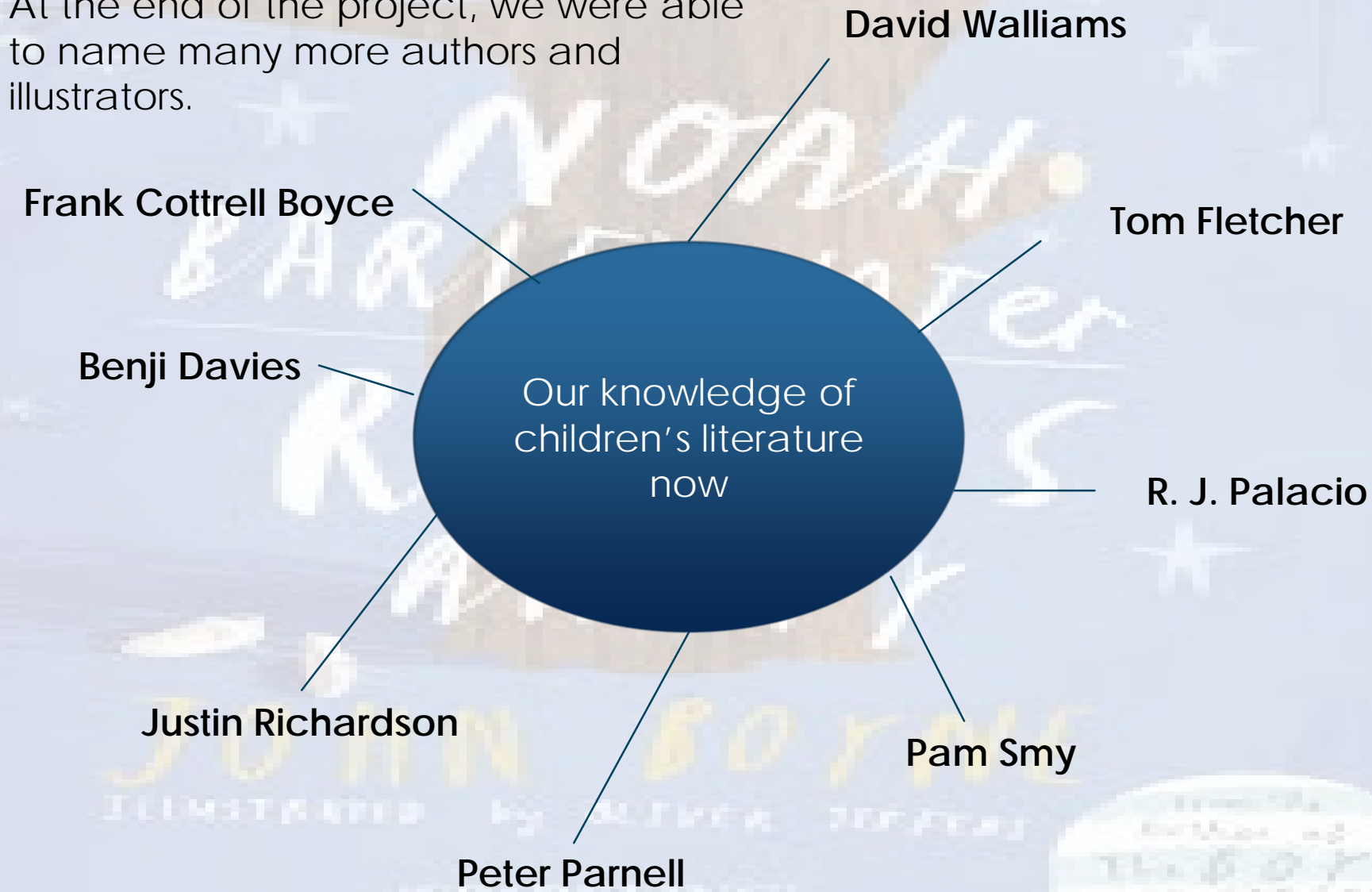
We also undertook our own research, and used Booktrust's website for different book recommendations.

The CLPE website had many book recommendations from all their staff.



# IMPACT

At the end of the project, we were able to name many more authors and illustrators.

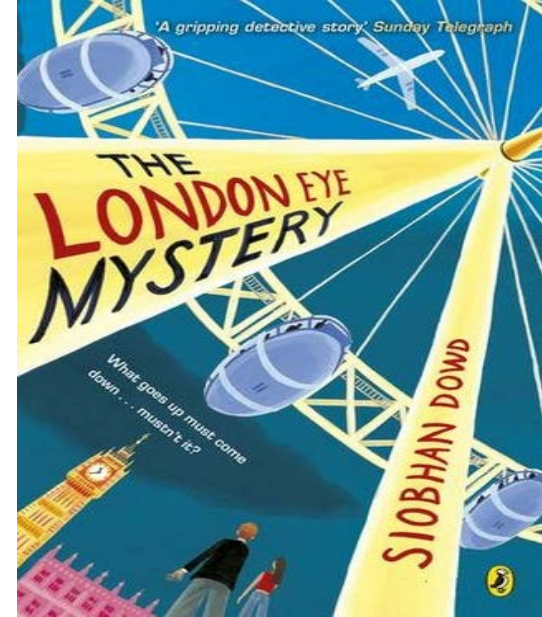
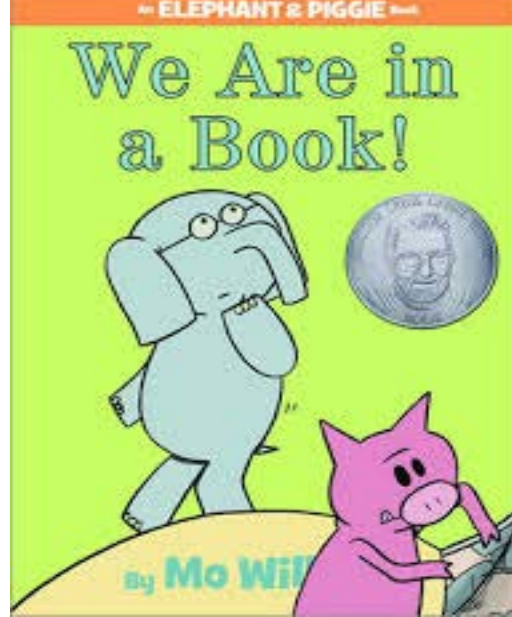
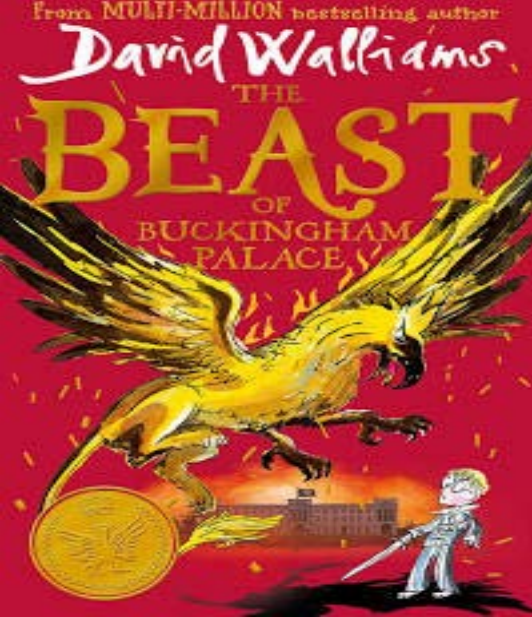


## REFLECTIONS ON IMPACT THE TARs RESEARCH HAD ON PRACTICE

It is clear that by focusing on this aspect of the TaRs research, we have developed more knowledge of children's literature. This will help us when we have classes of our own. By knowing more literature, we will be able to make more focused and suitable recommendations to children.

### Next Steps

- We want to continue to develop our knowledge on children's literature and bring this knowledge on children's books and authors into the classroom.
- We want to use our deepened knowledge to provide our classes with a wide range of books in their reading environment. This will support them in making choices and developing their own reading preferences.
- We want to continue this developing of knowledge onto poetry as this is an area we both still lack knowledge in.



Some of the books we enjoyed

