

Stories on the Big Screen



As part of a planned reorganisation, **Two Moors Primary School**, Tiverton, has recently installed a large, flat-screen television in the library. The idea is to catch children's attention as they walk past the entrance to the library and draw them in.

The screen is connected to a computer and has a wireless mouse, keyboard and set of wireless headphones. This means that children and teachers can operate the screen from anywhere in the library and children can listen to stories, search the internet and read online books without disturbing others. The children can watch a number of Pelican big books, a range of DVDs and can visit author websites.

Videos of school productions and special events can be played on a loop system. Children love the immediacy of this, being able to watch themselves and their friends the morning after a show has been performed.

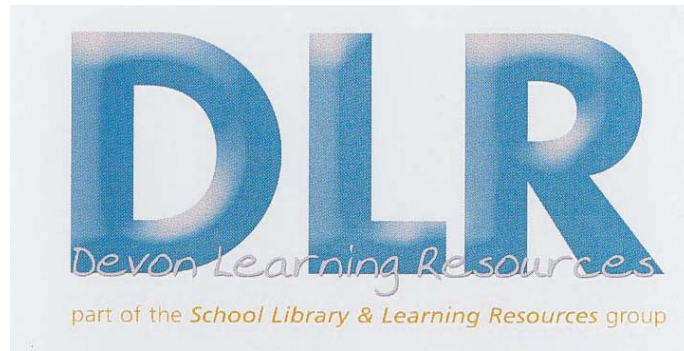
Following on from this came the idea to record people reading favourite stories, using the movie facility on an ordinary digital camera. **Roy Kerrigan**, headteacher at Two Moors, quickly enlisted the help of governors, the school administrator, the cleaners and other school staff.

Readings were kept very simple and not over-rehearsed, to sound as natural as possible, and each reader had a child to assist them and act as their page-turner.

The stories recorded to date have all been picture books, allowing the video camera to focus on the pictures rather than the person reading the story. The recordings include *Little wolf* by Ian Whybrow, *Archie the ugly dinosaur* by Christina Butler, *The trouble with uncle* by Babette Cole and *Misery Moo* by Jeanne Willis.

As always the simple ideas are the best. You don't need to have a large screen television in your library to make this work. The stories could be played on a computer with children listening on headphones. You can enlist Year 5 and 6 children to record stories for KS1 children - great to help them read with expression and a good activity for a book week.





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Is your school making the most of what's on offer from **Devon Learning Resources?**

Contact Kevin Harradine on 01392 385230
or email dlres@devon.gov.uk



Reading begins at home: how to make it fun for everyone

The amount of reading that children do in school will never be enough to make them **competent, confident readers**. If they are going to be good readers they have to read in their own time, and the way to get them to do that is to make it fun. Some children have already discovered the joys of reading - just you try to get their head out of a book! For the ones who don't know what they're missing and aren't yet into reading, **SLS can help**.

All the research shows that the home has the biggest influence on whether or not children read for pleasure. Getting that message across to parents is not always easy.

2008 will be the National Year of Reading with an emphasis on involving parents.

Devon SLS has produced a pack which schools can use with parents to give them **tips and hints on reading at home** with their children. These suggestions will benefit the parents who are unsure how to go about sharing reading with their child. The materials will also be a useful reminder for those parents who have forgotten **the pleasure principle**.

Teachers quite rightly challenge children to read to the edge of their ability but this means that reading is always hard, even for competent readers. Just as we don't always want to go home at the end of the day to grapple with a difficult book, so it is with children. This pack emphasises the **enjoyment of reading**.



Reading begins at home costs £30 (subscribers), £40 (others) + p&p

The pack includes:

- * 4 x A4 leaflets with tips and advice for different reading stages.
- * 9 bookmarks related to specific picture books and stories, giving ideas for book talk and activities at home.
- * 1 book mark with tips about reading non-fiction books together.
- * 1 book mark for parents to help children who are confident readers.
- * 2 leaflets (Ks1 & Ks2) to help parents to encourage reading, with suggestions of authors and genres children might enjoy.
- * resources can be photocopied for educational purposes.

To order a pack email lee.budd@devon.gov.uk or phone Lee on 01392 384311.

Staff news

We're losing a couple of well-known SLS folk this summer. **Kathryn Slack** has already taken early retirement and **Marie Payne** is leaving at the end of term. Many of you will have worked with Kathryn in her ICT role or as one of the School Library Advisers. Marie is known to literally *thousands* of children and school staff across North Devon and beyond as one of our intrepid Mobile Library Assistants, zooming around dispensing good books and cheerfulness in all weathers. They've both been brilliant ambassadors for SLS and we shall miss them lots.

Recommended websites

www.claricebean.com Great website for fans of Lauren Child. Bright and attractive in her distinctive style. Children can also do a quiz about the books and download screensavers (although they wouldn't download for me).

www.storynory.com Children can listen to traditional stories being read to them. These stories can also be downloaded onto iPods or MP3 players for them to listen at home.

Book reviews

Wilding, Val

Toby Tucker sludging through a sewer

The third instalment in the Toby Tucker series sees the main protagonist transported back in time to Ancient Rome where he experiences at first-hand life as the Roman slave Titus. Toilets and Vomitorium are high on the agenda in this particular story which will appeal to the 'Horrible Histories' generation. Accurate historical information is combined with humour to good effect and readers may wish to continue with the other Toby Tucker adventures, all of which neatly complement the Primary History curriculum. Age 7 - 10 year.

Strong, Jeremy

My brother's famous bottom gets pinched

The sequel to *My brother's famous bottom* is another tale full of comic mayhem from an author who often deals with the absurd. Children 6+ will love the juvenile humour and wacky characters. Can a goat called Rubbish save the day when Nicholas's brother gets kidnapped by giant babies? And do dogs really need to wear nappies to save the planet? Find out in this hilarious tale for KS2.

Gravett, Emily

Monkey and me

A cheeky girl, a playful monkey, lots to look at and plenty to keep you guessing. Children will certainly want to waddle and jump after sharing this appealing book. Great for Foundation and KS1.

Colfer, Eoin

The legend of the worst boy in the world

Will and his brother, featured in *The legend of Spud Murphy*, experience the sort of sibling rivalry that many youngsters will recognise. When this gets out of hand the punishment can only be ROWING THE BATH!! The moral of the story will create good discussion points and plenty of laughter. Suitable for lower KS2.

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