

Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity

Leading the Learning: what, how and why am I
teaching?

ECAD4017

Languages, Literacy & Communication

Session 2

December 2025



During lectures, please





Aims of this session

- Think about why this WMS was included in the CfW: why is literature important?
- Consider what makes a great storyteller
- Evaluate some children's books

Today we are going to focus upon

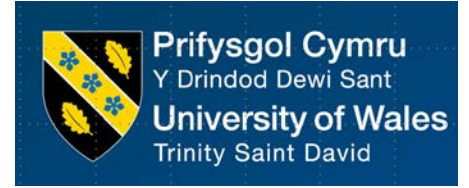
Definition: What is literature? Why do we read it?
Why is literature important?

Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

As a definition, Literature is an art that aims at producing beauty in writing and pleasure in the reader.

WMS4:
Literature
fires
imagination
and inspires
creativity

What can literature give children?



Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.

Literature expands horizons. In all its forms it can inspire and motivate us, while also helping us to learn more about language and communication.

This Area provides learners with literary experiences that can engage them as listeners, viewers, readers, narrators and creators. These experiences support them to appreciate a creator's craft as well as develop their own creative skills. They should be encouraged to experience and respond to a variety of literature that gives them insight into the culture, people and history of Wales as well as the wider world. Through this, as their understanding of their own and other people's experiences, beliefs and cultures is enhanced, learners can develop their ability to demonstrate empathy. This in turn can contribute to their emotional and mental well-being. In all, the literary experiences offered aim to spark learners' imagination and creativity and help to build a lifelong love of literature.

Why is literature important?



Why is literature important?

Good literature engages and motivates children;

Literature give us a window on the world.

As children think about literature, they are developing their thinking skills;

Literature helps children become familiar with language;



Literature help us to empathise with other people. They are important in our development as human beings;

Literature helps children develop their vocabulary;

The material in literature can be used as a stimulus for speaking, listening and writing;

The way you tell or read a story can make a big difference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEgREFpqFfA>



What the
characteristics
of a great
storyteller?

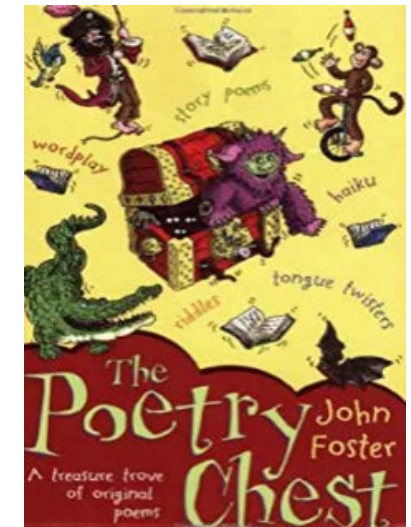
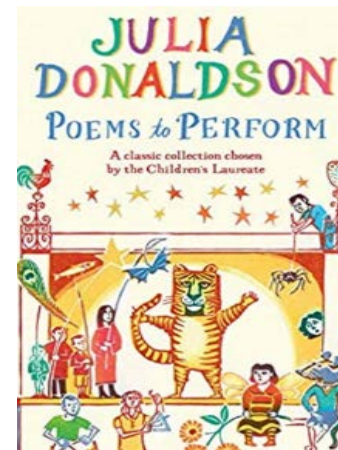
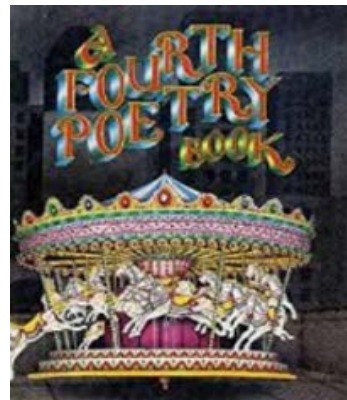
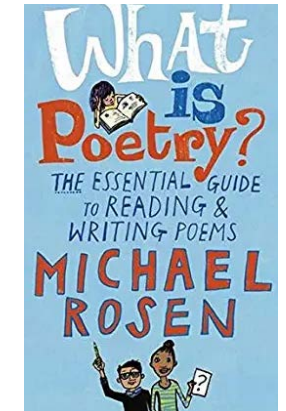
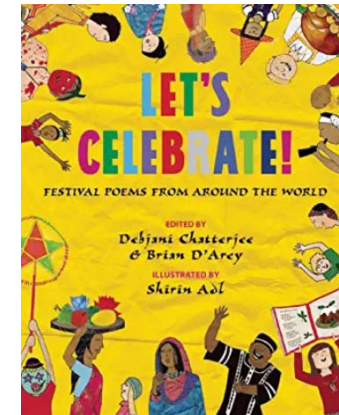
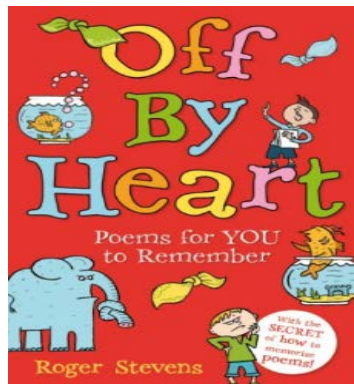


Now it's your turn

1. Each on of you needs to choose a story book
2. Individually think about the strategies you would use from your list if you were going to read this book to a class of Y1 or Y2 children;
3. Read aloud to each other;
4. Provide feedback using two stars and a wish;



Don't forget poetry!



What makes a good story book?

What do you think?

Look at the books and evaluate.

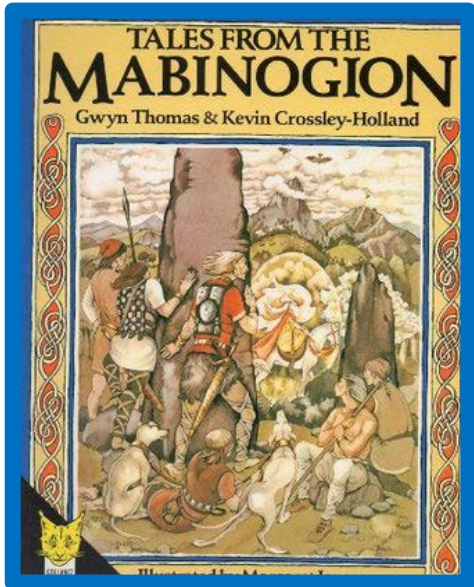


[Choosing books
for 3-7.docx](#)



[Choosing
books for 7-
11.docx](#)

Some of the literature of Wales you could use in your classroom



Only some of these are from the Mabinogion

The Story of Gwenllïan

Rhys and Meinir

The Story of Gelert

The Lady of the Lake Owain Glyndwr
Cantre'r Gwaelod

Gerallt Gymro *The Lady of Ogmere Down*

Rebecca's Daughters

The Story of Pwyll *Mary Jones's Bible*

Ywm Sion Cati

Die

Lord Rhys ap Gruffudd **Penderyn**

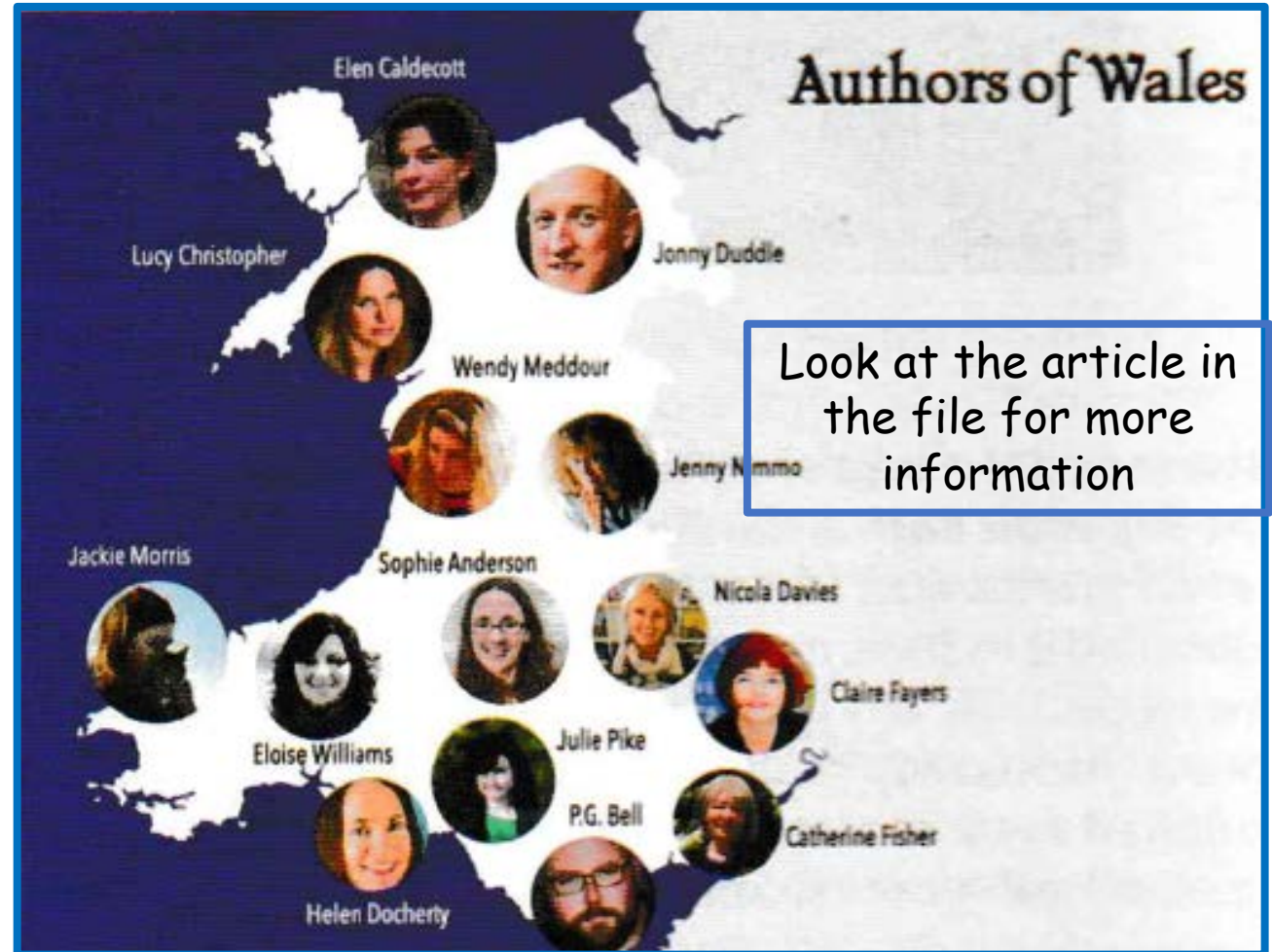
Welsh writers and more

Look at the Literature Wales website



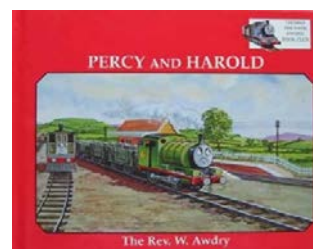
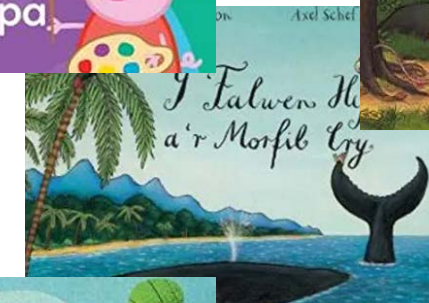
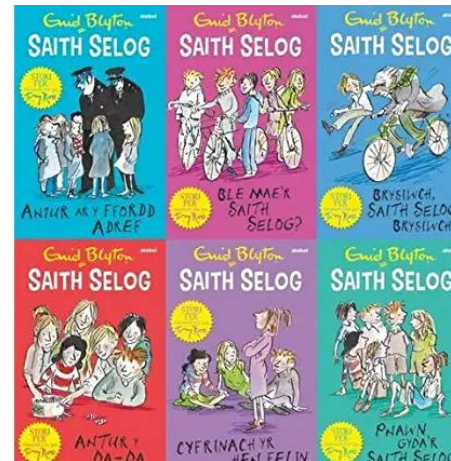
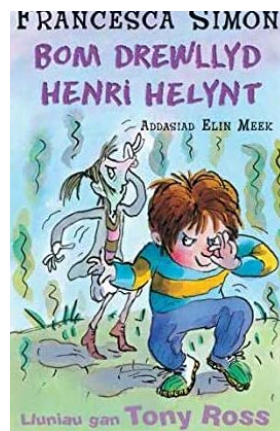
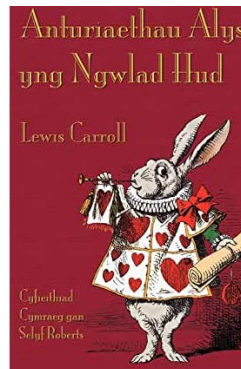
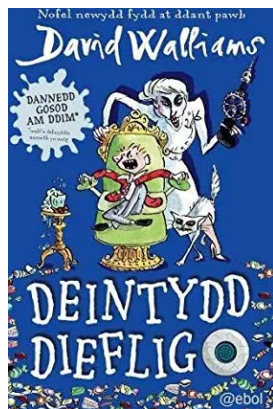
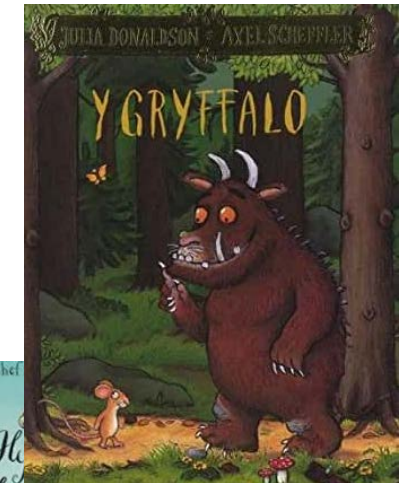
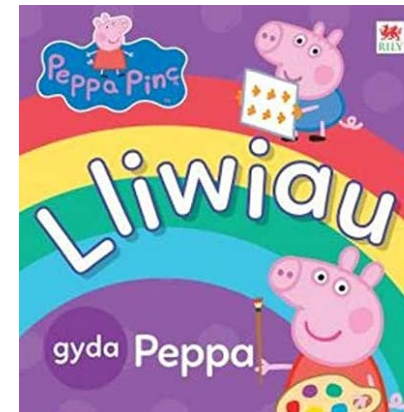
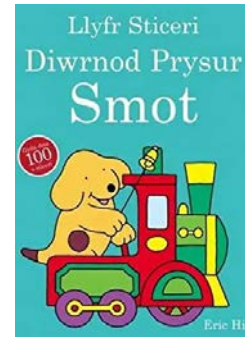
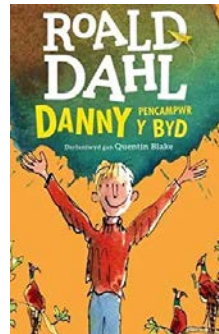
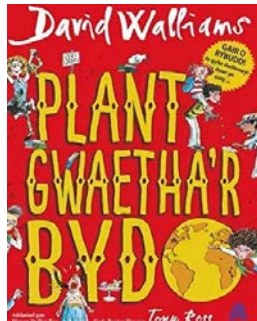
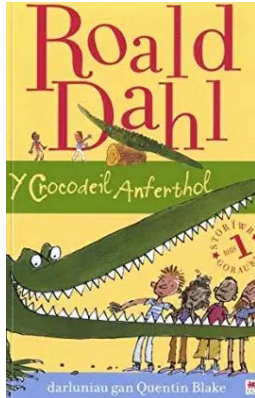
<https://www.literaturewales.org/>

Keep an eye out for
the Tirnan-Og awards



Look at the article in
the file for more
information

Books available in both languages



Books to promote inclusion



'The Colour of Us' – storybook ideas

"The colour of us" is an interactive board book which has been identified by Diversity and Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL) to provide a first conversation with children about skin colour. Interactions within the book include; a wheel to spin on the cover and first page, and a skin colour rainbow with a hole so children can add their own skin colour to the page. Simple questions throughout the book also help to expand the conversation beyond the page and encourage children to relate what they have learned to their own lives.

This factsheet explores why using books and stories to explore diversity and inclusion is beneficial to children's learning and development and also offers ideas to support you in using 'The Colour of Us' with children to explore the concept of skin colour.

[Ideas for inclusion.pdf](#)

<https://www.readbrightly.com/multicultural-fairy-tales-for-children/>

Diverse voices: the 50 best culturally diverse children's books

An incredible list of the 50 best children's books published from 1950 to the present day that celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity is released today

• Find out about everything we've got planned in our diversity in children's books week
Mon 13 Oct 2014 08:00 BST, published on Mon 13 Oct 2014 08:00 BST



Shares
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So Much by Trish Cooke and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury has made the 50 best culturally diverse books list.

This list of culturally diverse books to read, savour and recommend is a joyous celebration of the 50 most fabulous books for children of all ages living in multiracial, multicultural UK today.

Thanks to Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books for sharing the list with us today – and to the experts they called on to pull it together: Julia Eccleshare (the Guardian children's books editor), Jake Hope (from Youth Library Group), Library specialist Sarah Smith and Katherine Woodfine from the Book Trust.

Tomorrow we'll be launching a discussion blog where you can share your favourite and most inspirational diverse books of all kinds – and there'll be features, blogs, galleries and other stuff on diversity on the site all this week so stay tuned!

<https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/oct/13/50-best-culturally-diverse-childrens-books>

This list is a bit old but very good. In the file



<https://www.literacyshed.com/the-other-cultures-shed.html>

Useful links



<http://www.storyarts.org/>



readwritethink

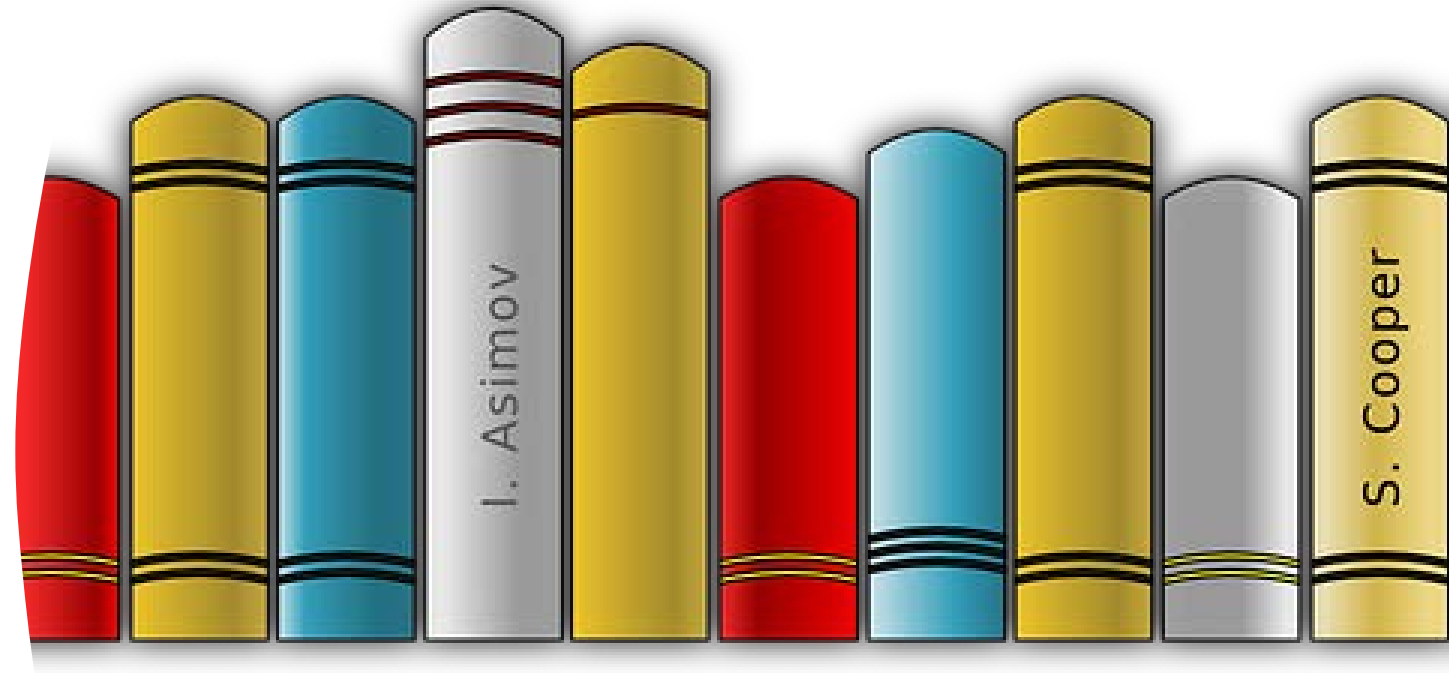
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Please get in touch if you would
like to discuss anything from
today's lecture



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