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The third book in the Wild Wanderers series continues in poetic style.

This resource offers practical advice for the home and classroom.

A Teaching Resource

Created by



Manchester
Children's
Book Festival

With thanks to

GRAFFEG

“Blow Wind Blow is such a beautifully written and illustrated book and the cross-curricular links are endless: Art, Music, Geography, Science, PHSE, History, as well as Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Even more importantly, though, ‘Blow, Wind, Blow’ allows you to get lost and wander the world with the wind. In a post-Covid world, I think children need to wonder more than ever and this book is a way into that.”

I Sarah Thompson, Plymouth Grove Primary School

“...a living piece of literature that evokes all sorts of images and experiences... cleverly captures the life and forms of the wind”

I Christian Rotchie, Scottish Book Trust

The Scottish Book Trust is a national charity that believes books, reading and writing have the power to change lives. A love of reading inspires creativity, improves employment opportunities, mental health and wellbeing and is one of the most effective ways to help break the poverty cycle.

Blow, Wind, Blow!

by Dom Conlon & Anastasia Izlesou

Teacher Sarah Thompson from Plymouth Grove Primary School, is a huge fan of using poetry in her classrooms. She uses it to encourage pupils to explore emotions and memories through creativity.

Poet, Dom and illustrator, Anastasia shared the book with pupils from Y5 in Plymouth Grove. They read the book to the pupils, talked to them about it and then challenged them to write their own poem or to draw a picture inspired by the book.

In response to Dom and Anastasia’s writing and drawing challenge, Sarah and her colleagues immediately split the class into Artists and Writers. We asked Sarah to share some of the techniques she used with her young artists and writers:

- Our sessions were filled with oracy opportunities and every one of Anastasia's pictures influenced a discussion. We shared our own personal experiences of the wind and used freeze-frame and the book illustrations to think about how these might be represented in a picture.
- The personification of the wind led to drama opportunities. Children discussed what the weather would be like as a person and brought the meteorological characters to life.
- The kennings in the book led to SPaG spotting – finding verbs, looking at dash-usage etc.
- The children talked about how sound effects could be used and we read the story, with a collective chanting of “Blow, Wind, Blow”, thinking, too about what instruments could be used to imitate the wind in the different parts of the world.
- We pinpointed each place in the book on our world map and looked at how the wind behaves differently in different places.





1A writing and drawing challenge

READ AND EXPLORE:

Explore 'Blow, Wind, Blow' using some of the ideas listed here, using movement and sounds and playing with the words and pictures to come up with new ideas together. You could imagine how the wind feels, creating a wind dance and freeze-framing to create 'live' pictures.

You might also explore some of the Wind Facts, at the back of the book.

WRITE

- your child may well just have an idea and want to write a poem, in which case, just let them go for it. Or you could take a more structured approach, exploring the use of Kennings, or the 'Verb, Noun, Verb' structure of the book title to help come up with new ideas. Maybe write a list of verbs and a list of nouns together and then each pull a noun and a verb at random to start a new poem or a short story. Or maybe write a short story from the perspective of the wind, or even write your own wind facts to add to Dom's.

DRAW

- your child may just want to illustrate their poem, again, just go for it. Or you might want to explore some of the ways in which Anastasia's pictures have included things that aren't necessarily in the text. As she puts it, this is how the illustrator has fun and brings something of themselves to the writing.

SHARE

- we would love to see what your children produce. Tweet their poems and illustrations using #WildWanderers and tagging in @MCBFestival @McrPoetryLibrary and @dom_conlon @izlesou . Dom will make the best of these into a 'Blow, Wind, Blow' video, like the one he did for Plymouth Grove pupils, which you can see here: <https://youtu.be/OPmGsB76N5g>



This resource has been created by the Manchester Children's Book Festival and Sarah Thompson. It was designed by Dom Conlon.

Manchester Poetry Library and Manchester Metropolitan University were delighted to host the official launch of 'Blow, Wind, Blow!' (July 2021) with Dom Conlon and Anastasia Izlesou, who were in conversation with Charlotte Hacking (CLPE) and Sarah Thompson (Plymouth Grove).

If you use this resource, please tell us and share your ideas by tagging us on Twitter [@MCBFestival](#) [@McrPoetryLibrary](#) or email k.tew@mmu.ac.uk.

Thanks to Graffeg Books for permission to use illustrations from Blow, Wind, Blow! Thanks to all the poets and artists at Plymouth Grove, Manchester.

The book can be purchased from: graffeg.com/products/blow-wind-blow

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