

Since being a small child, I have always had a passion for English; it all began when I was teaching my dolls English as a seven year old girl. I've always had a fascination with books, reading many classics as a child, and being an avid reader from an early age. It's part of my real passion for education, to ensure that children develop a love of reading and writing, which can both be so commonly lost now, in this era of technology.

As a teenager at secondary school, my final set of English work was based on 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen; a superb literary example of iconic writing. I've developed my love of language from this and it is a pleasure to hear texts like this read aloud. Ironically, another of my favourite texts is 'Trainspotting' by Irvine Welsh; a text with entirely different language and context, yet a highly enjoyable, and incredibly well-written text.

Since beginning training as a teacher, over twenty years ago, and having taught from Nursery to Year 6, at one time or another, I have had the opportunity to enjoy many texts over the years. I've had countless favourites; in particular I enjoy 'The Tiger who Came to Tea,' by Judith Kerr, 'Born to Run' by Michael Morpurgo and 'Tadpole's Promise' by Jeanne Willis. From high quality texts, it is highly pleasurable discussing the content and using them as a stimulus for creative writing. Additionally, the use of other fantastic books, including ones without text, such as 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs, can be inspiring for pupils who need to develop their vocabulary choices, and promote real thinking in regards to language that they want to use in their own writing. This has been developed greatly over the last seven years in particular, at our school.

These days, I've moved on to a Kindle; not because I don't enjoy handling books, I just read so many that it is easier, especially when I travel.

The English curriculum that we have carefully put together, intends to provide our children with the best possible skills, to allow them to access the wider curriculum readily, and give them a strong foundation for their future. I'm immensely proud of how the subject of English has developed and become one of our many pillars of strength, here at West Rainton Primary School.

Mrs Susan Firth