



March 2009 – Book Reviews – New Publications

Foundation & KS1

Reading Roundabout Series

Published by Franklin Watts

Price £3.99 each

‘I am a Muslim’ by James Nixon

ISBN 978 0 7496 7460 1

‘I am a Sikh’ by James Nixon

ISBN 978 0 7496 7459 5

‘I am a Hindu’ by James Nixon

ISBN 978 0 7496 7458 8

‘I am a Christian’ by James Nixon

ISBN 978 0 7496 7457 1

- A great resource – bright lively books.
- Small, child friendly size, full of fascinating photographs.
- The text is extra large with only one sentence to a page. At the back of each book is an illustrated word-bank to encourage children to write for themselves.
- Part of the Reading Roundabout Series.



These books have been added as additional resources in the LDBS RE Scheme of Work.

KS1

‘Grandma and Grandpa’s Garden’ by Neil Griffiths

Price: £5.99

Published by Red Robin Books

ISBN 978 1 9054 3409 1

- A very gentle exploration of bereavement with bright colourful illustrations.
- The text is weaker and employs euphuisms like ‘passed away’.
- Good for recalling memories of happy times and for reinforcing the idea that life goes on.

KS1 & KS2

‘Muddles, Puddles and Sunshine’ by Diana Crossley

Price: £7.99

Published by Winston’s Wish

ISBN 1 8698 9058 2

- Winston’s Wish is an organisation that works with bereaved children.
- The book contains a series of activities to support a child who has been bereaved.
- First printed in 2000, still available from Amazon.
- Very practical and straightforward.
- Could be adapted for whole class work.

KS2

‘The Barnabas Schools’ Bible’ by Rhona Davies

Published by Bible Reading Fellowship

ISBN 978 1 8410 1564 4

- Includes a Bible encyclopaedia which is simple and easy to use.
- 365 short stories – one for every day of the year which makes it very accessible.
- Beside each story is a next step quote from the Bible which I found very helpful.
- Price varies – the more you buy the cheaper they become.

KS3

'Broken Soup' by Jenny Valentine

Published by HarperCollins

Price: £5.99

ISBN 978 0 0072 2965 9

- Won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2008.
- Might be suitable for Year 6 but most suitable for KS3.
- A mystery story about coming to terms with a death in the family. The story explores not just loss but also love.
- Other important issues include the difficulty of being the main carer for a parent and younger sibling and being a single mother.
- Set in Camden Town with lots of recognisable landmarks.
- A very good read with lots of opportunities for discussion.

One to think twice about (KS1 & KS2)

If you are looking for a new dictionary '*The Oxford Junior Dictionary*' might be one to avoid. Oxford University Press decided to modernise it and so have removed Christian religious words (e.g. abbey, vicar and disciple); they have also taken out royal words (e.g. coronation and monarch). The names of the various fauna have been removed (e.g. guinea pig, magpie and newt) as have a whole host of flora (e.g. acorn, primrose and dandelion). According to OUP children no longer need the names of flowers, fruit and vegetables as they don't see the seasons anymore.

They have been replaced with IT words (e.g. blog and MP3 Player). Current issue words have entered the list (e.g. celebrity, drought and interdependent). There are also about a dozen curriculum words added (e.g. food chain, trapezium and block graph). Some of the new words will indeed prove useful but the dozens that are left out seem to be exactly the words a child might want to use in creative writing. Christmas writing could be trickier as carol, cracker, holly, ivy and mistletoe have all been removed!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- On a regular basis you will be sent relevant updates to your scheme of work so that you can replace pages as new resources are published. These will be sent in a sealed envelope in the school mailing. For any queries on the Scheme of Work please contact Leanne Gowar on 020 7932 1159 or by email at leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org