

Book title: Opening Doors to Quality Writing

Author: Bob Cox

Publication date: 2016

The review

1. What is your overall impression of the book?

The book attempts to give engaging new strategies to teachers to evoke quality writing out of children. The main stimulus throughout the text is literary heritage texts, such as Shakespeare, Keats, even Kafka. The idea is that children, if faced with the sometimes difficult prose, they will be exposed to it and learn.

2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?

This book is suitable for any educator who is faced with the prospect of getting quality writing out of children, it is also suitable for any adult trying to get their child into reading. There are many quality extracts already chosen within the text (cutting out the hard work of googling and searching for extracts within texts) accompanied by engaging activities.

3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?

The book is an easy, comfortable read. There is no unnecessary complications. The author himself has worked in education for 23 years, he has taught in classrooms himself and so his tone is colloquial, friendly and unassuming. It suits the audience and can be adapted to suit any age group.

5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?

This book has ensured that I will never shy away from a text due to its complex language. Instead of seeing it as 'too difficult' for the children, I realise that that it is our jobs as teachers (or as parents) to introduce children to these things, else how will they ever know? I have also learnt the importance of studying images (particularly in picture books that are of serious quality) as there is so much inference you can pull out of children.

6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?

'Quality texts make 'challenge' the norm, you can always go deeper'

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- 4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?**
- 5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?**
- 6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?**