

Key stage 2 activities

Wicked! Being the Baddy

These activities focus on baddies or villains in children's books. Use the books suggested below for ideas and inspiration and discuss with your class the baddies they know.

Discussion

How many baddies in books or TV programmes can your pupils name? Why do stories need them? Is it possible for people or animals to be perceived as baddies because of ignorance or fear? Once, the natural world was seen as something to be feared and conquered. How have things changed?

Suggested books to share

Wicked Poems chosen by Roger McGough (Bloomsbury)

Poems United: A Commonwealth Anthology, chosen by Diana Hendry and Hamish Whyte (Black and White Publishing)

Cloud Busting Malorie Blackman (Doubleday)

Hello H2O John Agard (Hodder Wayland)

A Poem for Everyone chosen by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clarke (OUP)

Understand Me

Pupils choose an animal such as Moby Dick, Jabberwocky or the Wolf and write a 'dear diary' poem from their point of view.

Play With Me

- Play with rhythm through baddy bookmarks. Use the computer to print off templates then pick a baddy character from a book or poem. Write a list of kenning words describing what this baddy does. Kennings are Norse riddles describing something by its actions. So a vampire might be: *bloodsucker, night flyer, silent stalker, sun hater etc.* On each bookmark write the author and title of the book that features this baddy.
- Throw a party and invite every baddy in history. Write a poem telling us what happens and who does what. Give it a chorus: *At the baddy's birthday bash...*
- This poem will unleash your wickedness! Start each line: *I'm so bad I...* then tell us your tricks and bad deeds. End each line with the word, *Wicked!*

Create Me

- Goody Bags are fun, but Baddy Bags are better. Decorate and fill one with 'story scraps': fabric, keys, buttons, a candle-stub, scraps of letter or bits of maps. Select one item each and write a few lines about it. Combine the writing into a class-poem called 'Bits of Bad'.
- Write a job-description for the 'Wanted' ads at the back of the local paper. The job is for a highwayman, a vampire or a giant.
- Generate GIANT ideas by standing in the playground in groups of five; help your teacher chalk an enormous footprint around you. Look at its size and work out where the next group of five should stand. Back in the classroom draw and cut out huge hand-

prints on A3 paper. Each group of five should fill each finger with descriptions of what it's like to be so big.

By Mandy Coe

Mandy Coe's poetry has been broadcast on BBC radio and television; her work with schools has been featured in the TES (www.mandycoe.com).