







A story telling the inspiration behind our entry, and how Dudley House's pupils and staff, approached the competition

It began with a blue-inked squiggle, on the reverse of a crumpled piece of paper. The first day it arrived in school, it grew when a child said,

“We could have book characters coming alive!” The lines appeared more fluid and ideas began to ping around the school like popcorn bursting from its packet in a microwave.

The following morning, another child skipped up the tarmacked driveway. He rushed to the teacher; words tumbled from his mouth, rolling

and swirling in the air like leaves on a windy day. Children, awaiting the start of the school day, gathered round.

“Flying high! That’s what the competition said.”

“We’re doing transport after half term, we could make a display about books, you know, fiction books that ooze imagination, travelling on planes and trains and balloons and cars!”

“Yeah, going on exciting journeys, in your head, like castles in the sky!” another pupil shouted.

“Let’s have a signpost to Nevermore. I’d love a chance to ride that bike!”

“What about using some of the book jackets we created for our display in Grantham Library – could we get those back?”

“I want to do something about Michael Morpurgo, he’s my favourite author,” announced another.

“I loved it when the author came to visit the school and read his book.”

“Every class could do something, even the nursery children.”

It was agreed. The school became a beehive; children, staff, volunteers and college students on their teaching placements, buzzing around, busy cutting and sticking and painting and gluing and reading and making and drawing and stapling and reading, discussing and thinking and even more

reading. In fact, of their own accord, children even made miniature paper books for Lego figures during play sessions, to ensure they weren't left out.

The idea was no longer a blue river of biro; it took the form of a definite shape. That evening, during staff meeting, each class chose tasks. Some were to capture photographs, others to paint leaves and castles. Design technology club agreed to make aeroplanes with their favourite lines from books flowing in the breeze behind them. Key Stage 2 decided to research in the local library so they could develop an author in focus section for the display.

Then, one rainy day, a girl approached the display and said, "I like reading best in bed." That night, a bed grew out from the display and a dream world, full of book quotes and characters, crept over the walls where vines to secret worlds snaked to the ceiling.

The next morning, as the children streamed into school, their mouths opened - squeals of delight echoed round the hall.

"We need birds in the sky," came a voice.

"The ones Mr Twit likes for his Bird Pie!"

So there you have it, Dudley House School's competition entry has been an exciting adventure, involving everyone in the school. Pupils are talking more than ever about reading – even the staff have been discussing their favourite books over lunch!