

**S.T.E.A.M. a Story - Case Study**

***Why?***

Stories are an engaging way to spark thinking about science. Reading texts with STEAM themes is one of the best ways for students to build literacy skills (including how to read, write, and reason with the language and text) while learning STEM content and cultivating dispositions of science (Pearson, Moje, & Greenleaf, 2010).

High quality STEM reading content can support students’ involvement in inquiry experiences, grasp of science concepts, and understanding of the nature of science (Cervetti, Barber, et al., 2012; Cervetti, Bravo, et al., 2009).

## ***Context***

This case study looks to give an insight into how to plan for Science and STEAM through books. As Primary Science Development Officer for Fife, I was interested in capitalising on the Read, Write, Count Campaign which gifts books to all P1 to P3 children. The children will receive a free bag with books, counting games and writing materials.

***The Aim***

In Fife Council, one of our priorities within education is to develop our STEAM curriculum and to look at all the ways in which we can raise aspirations in science education.

We aim to partner with the Scottish Book Trust and help develop resources to enable teachers to plan for and embed science through fiction and non-fiction texts.

The aim of this is to increase teacher confidence in science through teaching it in a familiar context, to reduce anxiety by providing planners and to make science fun.

***How***

In term 1, all school in Scotland receive Read, Write count gift bags. This year the books for Primary 2 are; A Tale of Two Beasts and Open Very Carefully. Primary 3 will receive a picture atlas and the book There is No Dragon in This Story.

To help practitioners plan for Science and STEAM activities using the books as a stimulus, we have developed a planning overview and two science lessons built around our STEAM folder.

We plan to host the planners and science lessons on the Scottish Book Trust website as well as on the STEAMFife SharePoint site within Glow. We plan to distribute these to a mailing list via email near the time of the Book bag launch.

We have a number of pilot schools including Carnegie primary school, Aberdour primary school, Commercial primary school, Falkland primary school, Warout primary school and Newcastle primary school. All schools in Fife will have access to these resources as does anyone who wishes to obtain a copy. The pilot schools have additional staff meetings to talk through planners and discuss how to imbed this approach within a gifting process.

To support practitioners in Fife in partnership with Clare Fulton, Scottish Book Trust Regional Outreach Co-ordinator, we will be running two session on the 19th and 22nd November in central and north east Fife. The sessions will explore the gifting process, the impact we hope the project will have and explore some hands on STEAM learning. We aim to follow this up with practitioners next year where they bring story books with them to plan and explore STEAM learning experiences.

## **Measuring Impact**

## We aim to collect data through surveys to measure how practitioners used the gifted books previously and how they used them after being provided with teacher resources. We aim to collect information about how the books have been used and if we have encouraged the planning of science. We aim to also collect information on the impact of our CLPL sessions.

**For more information please contact:**

**Kieran Land - Primary Science Development Officer (STEAM) for Fife Council**

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