

KIRSTY SMITH - HUFFLEPUFF

Hello, I am Kirsty Smith and the Hogwarts house I am representing is Hufflepuff.

There were 7 people selected for our team from the different subject areas based on our different strengths and I was chosen for the storyboard I created in English. However over the 3 days we had to complete our films I was responsible for handling the props including saying when to take the picture, how many to take and what scene was next. I was also the voice actor helping to bring our character alive.

My group won the award for best animation and we also won the top prize for best picture overall. At the start of our stop motion animation we used a lot of different camera angles as if the audience was seeing from the perspective of the dementor. We then focussed on the special effects showing the transition of our character from a person in to a dog which required a lot of problem solving and test shots. Making this central to the story of our film helped us to stand out from the other teams and win us best picture.

On day one we decided to focus on all of the things we needed for the next day to film. Everyone in our group was doing something. We had three people making props and clothes for our characters and two working on the background as well as Lynn and Mollie combining mollies and I storyboard with Lynn storyboard.

Day 2 was a lot harder because we hadn't quite finished the backgrounds, storyboard and flooring. Everyone was filming and we still needed to create more backgrounds. We encountered problems because we hadn't thought through a lot of things like where we were going to put our set design, how many back grounds we were going to need and how we were going to film it because no one had used Stikbot before. We did eventually get to filming but we only managed to get 10 seconds of it and we needed a minute.

The last day was very stressful because some of our team had to go and prepare our presentation as we would be speaking to the whole of S1 when screening our films. Since we were tasked with creating at least one minute of film and as it was a stop motion animation that meant taking 10 frames per second, so we needed at least 600 pictures and only 4 people were working on filming and finishing music. Although it felt like a lot of hassle, we did get there and surprisingly we managed to get 2 minutes of footage when others only managed a minute. I think we managed to produce a film that was over 2 minutes in length because we had to divide the tasks between different members of the group which meant we didn't have too many people working on the one thing making it easier and quicker to come to a decision about things.

Two of the main skills we developed were resilience and problem solving. We definitely used problem solving. We had too much natural light coming in where we had decided to put our set design so we duck taped four layers of newspaper onto the window to block out the changing light. We didn't have enough backgrounds and it would take too long to dry so we painted them quickly and used the heat gun to dry them faster. And that is only just 2 examples of the problems we solved! We also used our IT skills for this project. Editing was a real difficulty at first although we all helped each other to find a solution but adding in sound effects and music was extremely hard. Luckily Mr. Gordon from music was there to help and we could ask different teachers for advice when we needed it which really helped us to create the film we wanted. The one skill we used without realising it was group work. We always listened to each other's ideas and advice to tap in to our different strengths and knowledge.

I loved doing this project but I didn't realise how stressful it would be. It made me realise how important time management and group work is if you are to achieve your goal. I would try my hardest again if I had another opportunity to do a project like this because it is really worth it! You get to look back on what you achieved as a group and be proud of your work.