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TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

Literacy, STEM skills & Nature (with The Lost Words)

Literacy & Nature



Aim - stimulate thinking and signpost practical activities to help develop literacy, enquiry and classification skills outdoors (using The Lost Words)

- Discussion (Literacy in science education context)
- Activities (try some hands-on stuff online - enthusiasm)
- Resources (signpost key resources including Educators guidance).

Literacy & Nature discussion



Links to the break out rooms can be found in an email from Gayle earlier this week.

Break-out rooms to consider 3 questions - 1 person per group to feedback. Timings...

- What is literacy?
- What are you doing to promote literacy through Science Education?
- How much could you / do you use outdoor settings?

What is Literacy?

Wider concept

Communication skills
(speaking and listening)

Expressing our emotions,
thinking, learning, wellbeing,
personal identity

Key foundation for learning-
access whole of curriculum



Literacy & Nature



- Inspiration
- Engage
- Authentic
- Place
- Purpose
- Relevance

Creativestarleanning.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of Creativestar Learning Ltd. The header features a blue star logo and the text 'I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!' followed by silhouettes of children playing and the 'Creative STAR Learning Ltd' logo. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Support, Training & Courses, Resources, Projects, Blog, Index, About, Contact, and Grants. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest are also present.

Literacy Outdoors

A comprehensive collection of 50+ outdoor literacy ideas, activities and suggestions. They are open-ended and many work well with a range of ages and abilities. Most just rely on a few free and found resources. Check them out!

Outside children are often observed talking more, cooperating, socialising, mark making and doing many literacy activities often through their own choice. Please enjoy trying the activities and suggestions in the posts below and let me know how you get on.

[Outdoor Literacy Books, Packs and Downloads](#)
This is a useful blog post if you are looking for further resources

Writing Outside

[Let's Get Writing Outside!](#)
Practical tips for organising writing outside all year round

[Full Stops Outside](#)
Punctuation inspiration from outside

[A Blog Wordle](#)
Using wordles to support outdoor learning activities

[Making Sense of Metaphors](#)
An approach that begins with what children do best – playing in a natural setting

[Circle Poems in Action](#)
Using tyres for poetry work

FIND CREATIVESTAR ON TWITTER

SEARCH BY KEYWORD
To search, type and hit enter

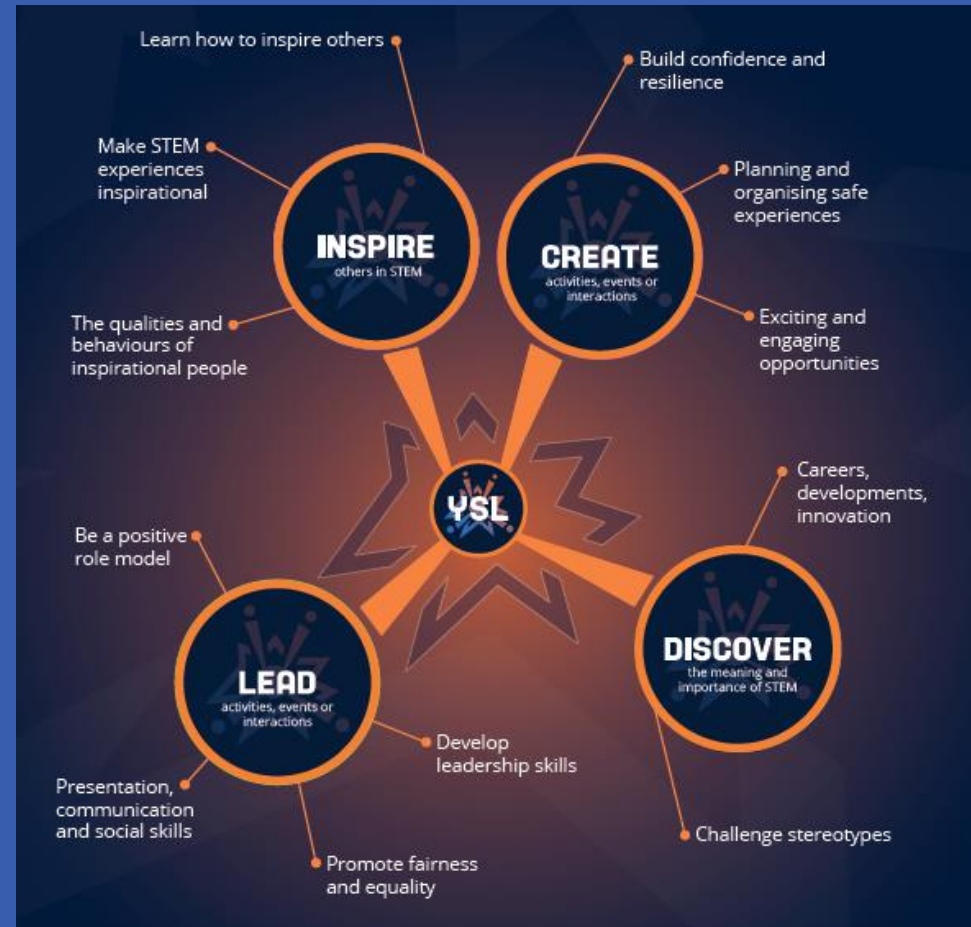
CREATIVE STAR COLLECTIONS

[Maths Outdoors](#) [Literacy Outdoors](#)

STEM Skills

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STEM Skills

Numeracy/ IT Skills

Problem solving

Valuing diversity

Initiative

Negotiation

Teamwork

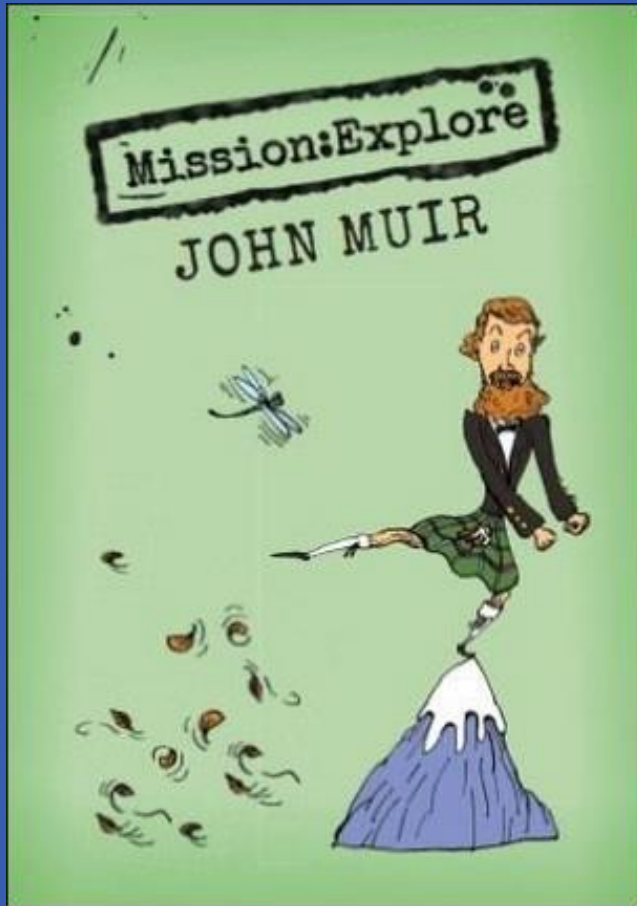
Communication

Deadlines

Adaptable

Organisational

Literacy, enquiry & classification



Search your outdoor space, books or internet, look out the window, choose a plant or animal and make up your own name for it according to what it looks like or what it does.

Share your unique name in chat function (we can see if we can guess / imagine what it is...)

Literacy, enquiry & classification



Deanburn PS P7/6F

@DeanburnPS_P7_6



Follow

Great fun last week exploring biodiversity in the Deanburn glen! @JohnMuirTrust @csgreennetwork #JohnMuirAward



RETWEET

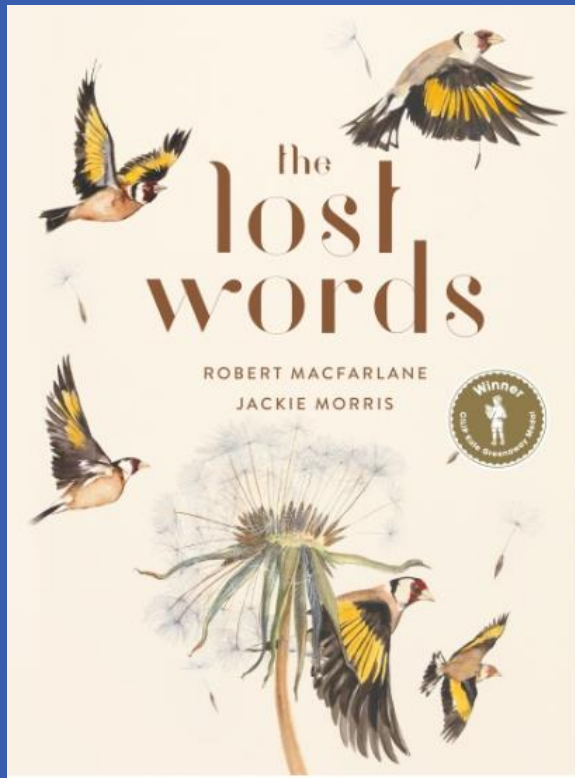
1

LIKES

4



The Lost Words



“Building vocabulary and increasing curiosity about language remain core to this, along with providing relevant, real-life stimuli for writing and increasing learner engagement in opportunities to write across a variety of genres. ...The Lost Words can support learning in these areas”. Michelle Moore, QIO for Literacy

Explorers Guide - hands on

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Wren 2

Listen, seek, find, speak

- Robert Macfarlane reading the Wren spell
- Search: BBC Today Macfarlane Wren
- Kerry Andrew performing the Wren spell, as Jackie Morris paints

Search: Morris Wren Whims

Wonder words

- What do these mean?
 - ◆ furze
 - ◆ etches
 - ◆ glitches

Can you find any synonyms? Try using them with a partner by creating different sentences.

Seek, find, speak

- What is meant by 'the world around her slows'?
- What is the chief characteristic that the writer conveys?
- What techniques does the writer use?

[Alliteration, internal rhyme, repetition, onomatopoeia, half rhymes, pauses]

- Make a list of the words related to movement. Why do you think the writer chose these particular words?
- What metaphors are used for wren?
- What does the last line suggest?

Writing challenge

- Choose a creature that moves very quickly. Observe the creature closely, using a film if a live example is unavailable!
- Create a word-hoard of movement words, using a thesaurus to extend your lexical treasury.
- Think of two metaphors you could use to suggest the creature's quality.
- Create your own spell, using the ideas you have gathered, playing around with the order to create the most impact.
- Practise reading aloud and perform, adding any sound effects that will enhance the delivery.

Wren 1

Seek, find, speak

- What do you think the twisted lines represent?
- What do you notice about the thorns?



Wren 3

Seek, find, speak

- Make some observations about the painting and compare with the previous two illustrations.

Research challenge

- What is the collective noun for wrens?
- What does the Latin name for wren, 'troglodytes,' mean? Why do you think this name

was chosen?

- Find out five fascinating wren facts
- Search: BBC Nature Wildlife Wren
- Find out about the 'hunting the wren' tradition.
- Find out the names attached to the wren in Wales, England, Scotland and the Netherlands. [Welsh - 'Druid,' English - 'Jenny,' Scottish - 'Dreathan-Donn,' Dutch - 'Little King']



Further reading and listening

- *King of the Birds* a fable from Aesop
- Search: Little Brown Wren King Birds
- *King of Birds* by Karine Polwart
- Search: YouTube Polwart Birds
- Compare this with a traditional Zulu story
- Search: Canteach Birds Zulu
- What are the similarities and differences?
- *Birds and Words* by Charlie Harper: compare the ways in which birds are depicted by Charlie Harper with the writing and art in *The Book of Spells*.
- *Little Wren* performed by Kerry Andrew
- Search: YouTube Kerry Andrew Wren



Explorers Guide – hands on

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Ever dreamed of being.....

Break-out rooms
1 person per group to
feedback.

Timings...



Otter 1
Seek, find, speak

- What is depicted in the painting?
- How would you indicate an absence of otter?

Otter 2
Wonder words


- What do these mean?
 - falter
 - holt
 - stein
 - are
 - silver-miner
 - deves

Try using them with a partner by creating different sentences.

- What do you notice about the structure of the poem (first and last lines)?
- What does the second stanza suggest?
- What is the extended metaphor used in the third stanza?
- What does 'turns the water inside-out, then inside-outer' mean and why is it so effective?
- Pick out words related to movement.
- How does the writer feel about the otter?

Writing challenge

- 'Ever dreamed of being ...' Which creature would you like to shape-shift into?
- Make a collection of movement words, verbs and adverbs, similes and metaphors, that you would relate to your chosen animal.
- Visualise shifting and describe what happens.
- Either write a diemante, showing the change from human to animal, or write a description or narrative.



Otter 3
Seek, find and speak

- How does this painting reflect the spell? Pick out the words and phrases that you think have clearly influenced the artist's interpretation.
- What else do you notice in the painting?

Further reading

- Tarka, the Otter by Henry Williamson
- An Otter a poem by Ted Hughes, from 'The Cat and the Cuckoo.'
- One Moonlit Night by T. Ulew Jones, adapted by Gillian Clarke and illustrated by Jac Jones
- Gwion and the Witch, which tells the story of Taliesin who has the art of shape-shifting. There's also a folk song version on YouTube.

Search: Wales History Taliesin; YouTube Ceridwen Taliesin



Lost Words with Tullochan and Knoxland Primary



AFT FOREST CLAY

Outdoor Learning
Weekly sessions
Literacy based on
real tasks
Use local locations

Hit Learning Challenge
New Clubs
Real Learning
Competition
Ready







Kind words
A small sign with a logo and text, leaning against a tree trunk.

A bright pink card or piece of paper lying on the ground.

two

one

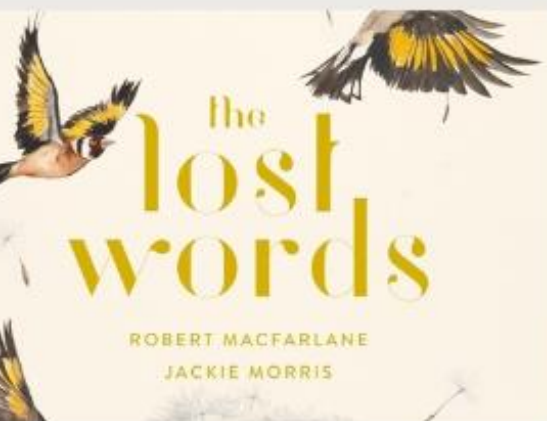
sun

Lush

Calm

three






An Explorer's Guide to The Lost Words

This free guide by Eva John accompanies *The Lost Words*. It's for anyone with an interest in nature, words and images who wants to explore further some of the ideas and creatures conjured up by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris in their enchanting 'spell book'. It's especially useful for teachers and educators.

[pdf](#) | [issuu](#) | [pdf \(single page\)](#)

Free Posters



Dandelion - The Lost Words Poster

Kingfisher



Kingfisher - The Lost Words Poster

Resources

adlet

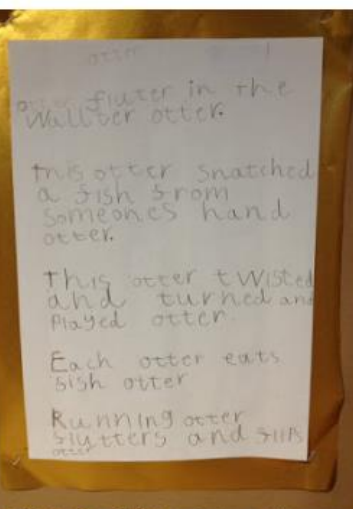


Lost Words for Schools Padlet + 4 • 1mo

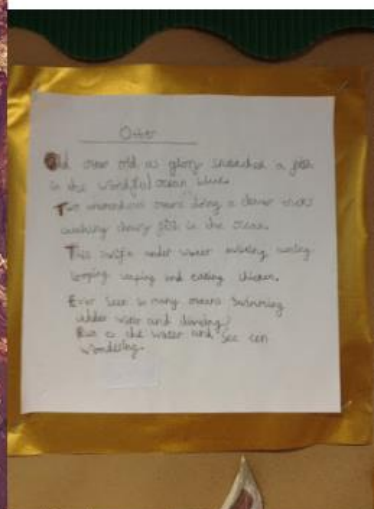
Lost Words for Schools Padlet

Made to help save the lost words and encourage children and educators to reclaim nature. Posts are intended for use in schools. Please add your own!

Y2 otter poem (2)



Y2 otter poem (1)



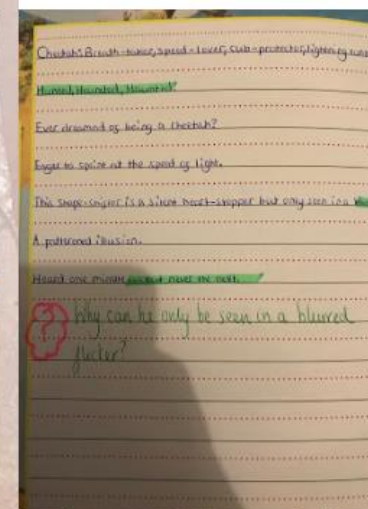
Y2s do otters (2)



Y2s do otters (1)



Cheetah spell



A 14 year old's response to
plastics in the environment...



Seek, Find, Speak

An outdoor theatre companion to
The Lost Words premieres at Timber
Festival in the National Forest this
summer.



Glowing acrostic poem (1)



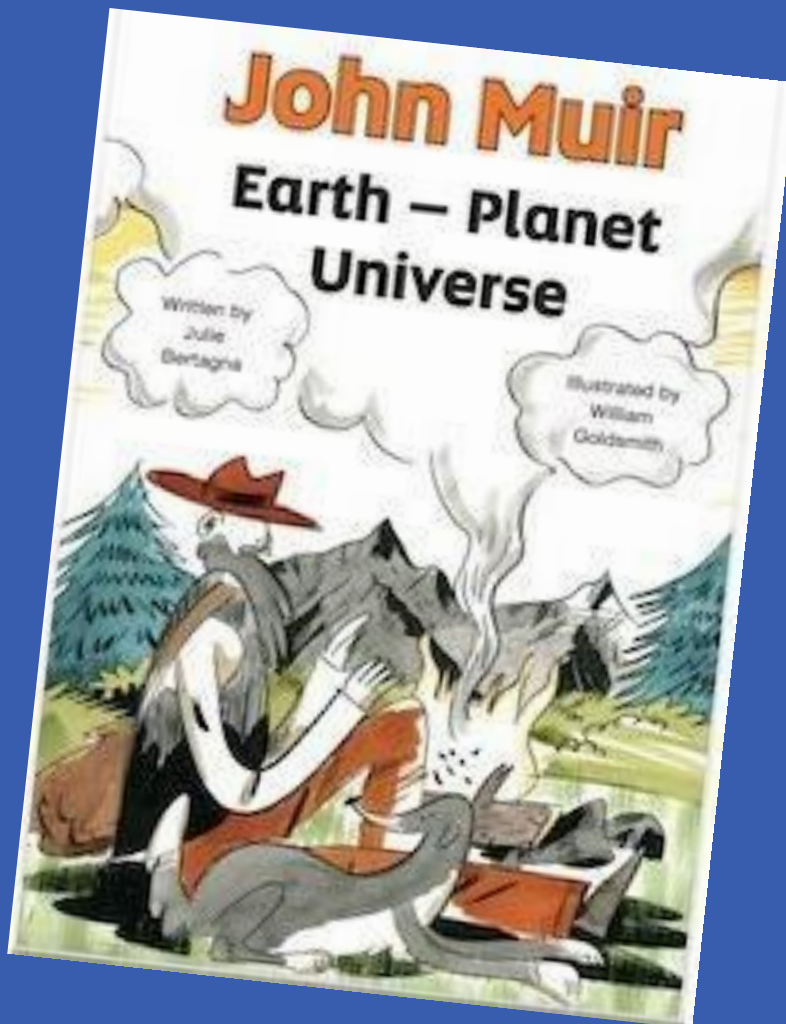
Glowing acrostic poem (2)



Resources

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RESOURCE GUIDE Literacy & Nature

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

otter

Otter person river without father – what a struggle under out of hole and into water!

This shape-shifter's a shore breath-taker, a sure heart-cropper – but you'll only ever spot a shadow flutter, below stone, and never (please never) notice water!

This softy creature's a clever deceiver – will make its way to home each week pool deep and dreamy, when its current steep and shaggy, turns the water hidden-out, then inside outer!

Ever dreamed of being otter? That's otter underneath thunderbolts, that's skimming lightning!

Fix to the moment, when dreamer's old, feel rain and change your weather, just pass your outer being into otter – and water live in otter without father or water!



© Robert Macfarlane & Juliet Robertson, 'The Land' series

"Language is written deeply and richly into our relationships with landscape and with nature: there as the place-names on our maps, and the many names of species, common and rare, with which we share our lives." Robert Macfarlane

What is Literacy?

Literacy is traditionally understood to be the ability to read and write. In practice, it's a far wider concept based on communication skills, including speaking and listening. The ability to use language effectively lies at the centre of development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning, our wellbeing, and our sense of personal identity. Literacy skills are therefore of great social, emotional and economic importance to each individual as well as to society as a whole.

In an education context, literacy is recognised as a key foundation for learning. It's fundamental to all areas of formal learning as it often unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities in all aspects of life, laying foundations for lifelong learning, employment and social interactions.

"Literacy is about loving life and expressing it in different ways." Juliet Robertson, Creative Star

Resource Guides on: John Muir, Campaigning, Biodiversity, Wildlife Gardening, Surveys, Outdoor Access, National Parks, AONBs, Outdoor Learning, Sustainability

Links



www.johnmuirtrust.org/initiatives/the-lost-words

Scottish Book Trust Blog:

www.readingchallenge.scot/blog/2019-02/outdoor-reading-journeys-lost-words

Padlet: <https://padlet.com/LostWordsforSchools/lwfs>

Use/share using hashtag [#TheLostWords](#).

Spell Songs

www.youtube.com/channel/UCmmCD0vZd2YueMgn7cv5YjA

Professional Learning



STEM By Nature

Aim to build STEM skills through the use of nature settings and outdoor learning methodologies.

Audience: primary and secondary teachers, additional support needs, and community learning development educators.

Supported by *Education Scotland's Enhancing Professional Learning in STEM Grants Programme* through the Scottish Government STEM Education and Training Strategy.

