

The voice of the wild

This activity opens the senses to the delights of nature and encourages expressive writing and dramatic presentation.

Resources

- Writing pad and pencil
- Plastic bag to sit on

Activity

Children find a partner and make sure they have a writing pad and pencil or pen between them.

The teacher needs to define an area to work in and children must remain within that area. Then, with their partner the children take a gentle stroll together through that part of the reserve. Working in pairs they jot down every sound they hear. This might include the trickle of the stream; the toot of the train; the creak of branches or bird song and so they write down single words such as trickle, toot, creak, tweet etc.

The teacher then calls the group back to the starting point. Still working in pairs the children sit on their plastic bags and write a short story of the vale using the words they have jotted down, e.g. "As I walked along the crunchy path I listened to the shrill call of birds and the squawk of big black birds as they fluttered onto the telephone wires".

Then the children find another pair and read their stories to each other using lots of expression for their sound words.

An alternative activity would be to focus on texture or smells rather than sound. But unfortunately not with taste, the Nature Reserve is a dog walker's paradise!

In cold or wet weather, the group might go to the village hall to write their stories.

Follow up

- Back at school the class could work out which sounds appeared to be the most common. They could produce a class book of their writing or tell their stories to another class or in assembly. Also go to www.buglife.org.uk to find the Making a Buzz and Pollinators and Poetry activity sheets.

Visit CVCg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

