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Celebrating Books with Author Antony Wootten

by Miss Fraser | Mar 2, 2022 | News, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 | 0 comments



Our World Book Day celebrations started early today when the brilliant author/illustrator Antony Wootten visited school to work with our children. The day started with a Q&A session in the hall, when Antony introduced himself, showed us some of his books and answered some great questions that our pupils asked. He told us all about how playing with toys and creating stories as a child led to him becoming an author. Antony also told us about his writing process, what his favourite books were as a child and what inspires his stories.

After this, each class did a fantastic workshop with Antony. Year 3 and 4 took part in an exciting free-writing workshop. First, they took part in some 'daydreaming training'. Pupils looked at some fictional images and used their senses to describe what they could see and what they would feel, hear, smell and taste if they were there. This got pupils thinking about all the powerful vocabulary they could use in their writing. Next, children were given 1 minute to stare out the windows and let their imagination run wild with something that could be happening, such as a dragon flying over the rooftops. So many creative ideas were

shared following this activity. Finally, Year 3 and 4 pupils were given 5 minutes to write their daydream on paper, without stopping. They were told not to worry about spelling or punctuation too much for this activity, but just to get their ideas quickly from their minds onto the paper. Pupils then shared their stories and we were very impressed with their ideas!

Year 5 and 6 both did the 'planning a whole story' workshop, which was so much fun. This was a class effort where children worked together with Antony to produce a horror story. Pupils in Year 5 voted for the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse for their setting, then they discussed other ideas, such as characters and scenarios. After sharing initial ideas, both classes talked about how to plan the story, with a focus on the story ending. Antony said he likes to jump straight to the end and plan this part of the story early in the process. He then thinks about the middle part as he goes. He also advised pupils to have an "oh no!" moment (a moment in the story when something goes wrong).

Children's ideas were collected and recorded on the flipchart. Antony then turned these notes into a spooky and very well-told story. Year 5's was about a Pluto teddy coming to life. You could have heard a pin drop in the room as pupils listened carefully to the story. Our visiting author then discussed the importance of going back and making edits and improving parts of the story with extra information or storylines.

Some of our pupils in school bought a copy of one of Antony's books, which he signed with a personalised message for them. As many other children have shown interesting in buying a book today, everyone has been given an order form, which can be completed and returned to school by pupils who would like to purchase a book (or multiple books!). We also have some copies of Antony's books in our library for children to enjoy.

Information about the author and his books can be found on <https://www.antonywootten.co.uk/>.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Antony Wootten for a fantastic day!



