

Seminar Q

Session leader: Anita Lawrence

Co-presenter / accompanying teacher: N/A

Session title:

A Lived Religious Experience – How can we use children's literature to bring the lived religious experience to life in the classroom?

Key questions addressed:

- What are the most effective ways of examining the lived religious experience in the classroom, looking at artefactual, religious and critical literacies?
- What is critical literacy, why is it necessary, and how could we teach it?
- How can children's literature enhance the teaching of both critical literacies and the lived religious experience in religious education lessons – and beyond?

Main content and activities of session:

The session will introduce the main issue around teaching critical, artefactual and religious literacies in the classroom, with a focus on what it means to be *literate* in these areas rather than just informed. The main bulk of the session will take the form of an upper KS2/lower KS3 lesson (!) using a range of books to encourage discussion and exploration of key religious concepts across two or more religious practices. Focussing on two books in particular —Gleitzman's Grace, and Does My Head Look Big In This? by Abdel-Fattah, the session will attempt to investigate not only how we can use great fiction to help pupils understand the religious experience a bit more easily, but also what it might feel like to be a pupil newly exposed to raw and passionate fictional accounts of religious adherence and the questions that exposure might raise in terms of classroom use.

The session will end with an overview of key principles to take into account when using critical and artefactual literacy approaches in the RE classroom and a chance to look at a range of possible fiction choices for future use.

Links to resources, publications, etc:

Abdel-Fattah, R, Does My Head Look Big in This, 2005

Almond, D, The Tale of Angelino Brown, 2017

Almond, D, The True Tale of the Monster Billy Dean, 2011

Almond, D, Slog's Dad, 2006

Cottrell Boyce, F, Millions, 2004

Farmer, N, The House of the Scorpion, 2002

Forde, C, Fat Boy Swim, 2003

Gilbert Murdock, C, The Book of Boy, 2018

Gleitzman, M, Grace, 2009

Main, Z, The Muslims, 2017

McCaughrean, G, Forever X, 1997

Mehmood, T, You're Not Proper, 2015

Millar, M and Gross, P, American Jesus, 2016

Pullman, P, Northern Lights, 1995

Pullman, P, The Book of Dust, 2017

Rosoff, M, There is no Dog, 2011

Rowling, J K, The Tales of Beedle the Bard, 2007

Zurcher, A, Twelve Nights, 2018

Coles, R, The Spiritual Life of Children, 1992

Green, C.R and Brenneman Olendorf, S. Religious Diversity and Children's Literature, 2011

Pahl, K & Rowsell, J, Artifactual Literacies: Every Object Tells A Story, 2010

Priestly, J.G, Concepts with Blurry Edges: Story and the Religious imagination 1983



