



Longlevens Junior School hosts a National Education Trust Invitation Seminar

Thursday 14th June, 2007

Arts & Minds

Brian Moses made a fantastic contribution to our seminar on 14 June. Here is some information about Brian:

Biography:

Brian Moses lives in the small Sussex village of Crowhurst with his wife, two daughters, a golden labrador and a collection of bad-tempered chickens.

He started writing as a teenager. He tried to play the guitar and write songs. When he realised that he wasn't going to become a rock star (which was incidentally some time after everyone else had come to the same conclusion) he put the guitar away and the songs turned into poems. He first worked as a teacher but has now been a professional children's poet for 19 years.

To date he has over 170 books published including volumes of his own poetry such as *Taking Out the Tigers* (Macmillan), anthologies such as *The Secret Lives of Teachers* and *Aliens Stole My Underpants* (both Macmillan) and picture books such as *Beetle in the Bathroom* and *Trouble at the Dinosaur Cafe* (both Puffin). His Selected Poems for children *Behind the Staff Room Door* will be published by Macmillan in 2007 along with a lift the flap picture book *The Sssnake Hotel*. Over 850,000 copies of Brian's poetry books have now been sold by Macmillan and in 2005 he was nominated for both the CLPE Award and the Spoken Word Award.

Brian also visits schools to run writing workshops and perform his own poetry and percussion shows. To date he has visited well over 2200 schools and libraries throughout the UK. He has made several appearances at the Edinburgh Festival, been writer in residence at Castle Cornet on Guernsey, on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway and at RAF schools in Cyprus. Recently he has visited several International schools in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, France and Ireland. He has performed his poetry at Borders on Second Avenue, New York and in September 2006 he was invited to Iceland to take part in 'Kids in the Marsh' - a festival

of children's poetry and song. A CD of Brian's poetry and percussion is available from the National Poetry Archive.

Find out more about Brian Moses and read some of his poems on The Poetry Zone - www.poetryzone.co.uk and on The National Poetry Archive - www.poetryarchive.org

You can book BRIAN MOSES for any of the following:

Poetry & Percussion Shows

Rhyme, Rhythm & Rap These are presentations to the whole school, or to infants and juniors separately, in an attempt to show that poetry isn't something that just sits on the page. Rather, it can be brought to life using a variety of voices, movements and percussion instruments such as talking drums, spring drums, tambours, claves, bells, shakers and brushes. It is an energetic presentation involving audience participation and ranging from the comic to the serious to the spooky. Sessions usually last an hour and if the hall is large enough Brian can accommodate up to 400 children for one show.

'I have seen Brian Moses present his poetry and percussion show on two occasions and I think he's wonderful.' - Jacqueline Wilson (Children's Laureate)

Workshop sessions for an individual class or a class size group.

Workshops last an hour (half an hour at KS1) and involve single classes or a class size group of children in a question and answer session followed by a poetry writing activity. Some schools like to target able writers and make up two groups - one from lower junior classes and one from upper juniors. These children can then go back to their classes and cascade what they have done with Brian. Follow-up sheets are available.

'Brian's visit had an amazing impact in school - the children loved his performance.' - Martyn Lightwood (Headteacher, Harlescott Junior School, Shrewsbury.)

Residencies

Brian undertakes a number of residencies each year, either for a whole week or for five days spread over a term. This sustained contact allows him to build up a relationship with classes and to comment on the writing that is produced. Performances and an evening for parents can usually be built into the project.

Family Writing Evenings

These sessions last for about an hour and a half. Parents and children are invited to listen to poems, to learn a little bit about how poetry is taught today, and to have a go at writing themselves. Emphasis is placed on treating children as young writers and on refuting the notion that all poetry has to rhyme. Above all, these should be fun evenings with families sharing a memory and then expressing their thoughts and feelings in words.

'My mate thought you were cool.' - Boy aged 10

Writers' Trails

Developing a trail around school grounds so that children may be taken out to points along the trail and write on location.

Alternatively trails can be set up around castles and other ancient monuments. Brian is also invited to take part in school trips and he runs annual sessions at Michelham Priory in Sussex.

Inset Days

Ideas for imaginative writing, making the strategy fun for pupils and teachers, performance poetry, location writing.

A typical day could consist of the following:

9.30 - 10.30 An hour of ideas to inspire writing both at KS1 and KS2. These are ideas that Brian has used over the past 18 years in his visits to over 2250 schools across the UK and Europe.

11-12 - A practical hour in which Brian shows how he runs class workshops and teachers have a go at a writing activity which will have relevance to their work in the classroom.

Afternoon: A session where teachers have time to read poetry books and find poems that will be immediately useful. This can lead on to a session on performance poetry with practical activities using instruments, sound effects etc.

Brian has been invited by HRH Prince Charles to take part in his 2007 Summer School for teachers at Cambridge University.

Brian was one of 10 children's poets invited by the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, to feature in a website as part of the National Poetry Archive - launched in November 2005. Address of site as follows: www.poetryarchive.org

Contact Details

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