

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME PROGRAMME TITLE: One Author, One Community (Variation on One Book, One Community) PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): Home-School Liaison Teachers	
Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: Meath VEC	
Time & Place	Target Group(s)
Navan, County Meath, Spring Term 2009	Post-primary students, primary students, Youthreach (Early school leavers) and Adult Literacy Groups.
Short Description (Max. 200 words)	
<p>The “One Author, One Town” initiative took place during the Spring term of 2009. It was organized by Home-School Liaison Teachers. The idea was a variation the “One Book, One Community” initiative completed in Chicago, some years previous. In order to appeal to the widest cross section of the community, it was decided not to limit participants to one book, but to find an author that appealed to a large audience with many publications. The famous Irish author Roddy Doyle was chosen.</p> <p>The Home-School Liaison Teachers of Navan organized the project in the schools and agencies in which they worked. Two post-primary schools, two primary schools, Navan Youthreach (Early school leavers) and an Adult Literacy group from Meath VEC participated. The local library ordered in the books required for all the participants. During the Spring term participants read a number of Roddy Doyle books, appropriate to their reading level. They produced project work on the books read. They met in groups to have age appropriate discussions of their books.</p> <p>Following the success of the reading initiative the organisers invited Roddy Doyle to Navan to meet the participants of the project. They booked the local theatre and hosted “An Audience with Roddy Doyle”. All of the post-primary, primary, youthreach and adult literacy group students got to spend an afternoon with the author. Roddy Doyle read and discussed pieces of his work, before conducting a question and answer session with the students.</p>	
Objectives (General & Specific)	
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To unite learning communities on a common literacy theme. To promote a love of reading. To relate to an author and their writing process. <p>Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce project work on an author’s work. To read intensively for a full term. 	
Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions & Activities	
<p>Step 1: Home-school Liaison Teachers invite schools and literacy group to participate in initiative.</p> <p>Step 2: Suitable author, with age appropriate and wide breath of work, to be chosen.</p> <p>Step 3: Home-school Liaison Teachers to organize ordering of age appropriate reading material from local library.</p>	



Step 4:

Distribution of books to participants.

Step 5:

Home-school Liaison Teachers to co-ordinate with classroom teachers project work for students. Classroom teachers to monitor progression of reading.

Step 6:

Invite author to visit participants of initiative.

Step 7:

Organise “An Audience with _____” afternoon.

Step 8:

Classroom teacher and student to complete project work and display for author. Prepare suitable questions for author.

Results / Indicators of Success

Both teachers and students reported that the initiative was a successful venture and very enjoyable. The cohesion between a large cross section of learning communities was seen as promoting and celebrating lifelong learning. Teachers reported how the students looked forward to reading and that the high standard of project work reflected their interest in the author’s work. The author himself, Roddy Doyle, expressed his delight at the enthusiasm of the students and the insights they displayed to understanding his work.

CONCLUSIONS

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

The cohesion between learning communities was seen as a huge success. It united learners of all ages under a common theme and thus promoting the idea of lifelong learning.

The cohesion between educational agencies was also seen as a success. Post-primary schools, primary schools, libraries, youthreach centres and adult literacy centres worked together to promote this successful initiative.

The hosting of “An Audience with Roddy Doyle” was a fantastic showcase for the town of Navan.

REFERENCES

Meath VEC

LINKS TO FURTHER MATERIAL



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