

## Meet Our Authors: Michael Rosen

### Teaching ideas for *Boogy Woogy Buggy* (from *Centrally Heated Knickers*, by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Harry Horse, Puffin 2000) (P4-P7)

*Centrally Heated Knickers* is “a sparkling combination of science and poetry” that was commissioned by STAR\* (Science, Technology and Reading) who asked Michael Rosen to create 100 poems about chemistry, physics, the environment and design and technology. There is also a companion teacher resource published by ASE (the Association for Science in Education) which explores the science behind these poems and suggests a range of related activities across the curriculum:

<http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/learnnet/star.htm>

#### Suggested learning experiences

- Perform poem as group
- Investigate everyday inventions
- Write a story or poem about an adventure involving an invention
- Investigate the language of advertising and design a marketing campaign for an invention
- CC – investigate boogie-woogie music
- CC – make buggies in technology; test their rolling resistance on slopes in science

#### Overview of possible learning outcomes (at Second Level unless stated)

Listening & Talking	Reading	Writing
Comment on choice and use of language in the poem	Discuss style and language features	Collect, select and organise ideas
Explain choices, give reasons for preferences	Increase understanding of vocabulary, structure, punctuation, grammar	Engage the reader through choice of language, structure, punctuation and poetic techniques
Plan and prepare a performance	Enjoy using and choosing language	Choose appropriate language to persuade, promote, sell
Comment on the performance of others	Make personal evaluations using evidence from text	

#### Warming up

1. **Think, pair, share** – Getting to know the poem - see “Teaching ideas for developing poetry” for details of this activity.
2. **Performance** – this is a very rhythmic poem. Explore in small groups how you might read it aloud, maybe with some claves or a tabor to set up a beat to keep you together. Decide how you want to perform it (MR4; Making music – below), then rehearse and perform it for the class.

**Reading:** explore the text to identify performance potential

**Listening and talking:** discuss the poem, plan and deliver a group performance

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### **Ways with words**

**Technical tip** – Michael Rosen uses assonance (repeated vowel sounds) to create internal rhyme in this poem, e.g. “glide” and “ride”, “feet” and “meet”, and he plays with sounds to create half-rhymes that are also internal: “streak down the street” and “easy, speedy baby”. These rhymes and half-rhymes come very close together, which, combined with the use of one and two syllable words, create a clipped, staccato effect that is pleasing to read aloud.

### **Working towards writing - everyday inventions**

1. **Everyday inventions** – in pairs make a list of everyday inventions. For each one, think what special things it allows you to do, what special qualities it has, what life would be like without it – make lists of these special features to go with each invention.

**Listening and talking:** *consider everyday inventions and their qualities, purposes, benefits*

**Writing:** *make annotated lists of the above*

2. **Everyday stories** – Michael Rosen has imagined an everyday story around many of the inventions that inspired poems in Centrally Heated Knickers. What adventures could you imagine happening in connection with your favourite everyday invention? Turn it into a poem or story.

**Writing:** *create a poem or story to relate an adventure based around an everyday invention*

3. **Marketing marvels 1** – look in magazines for the claims that advertisers make about products. Collect these phrases and comments. Do you have any favourites? Share these with the class and try to say why.

**Reading:** *identify the language used in product advertising*

**Listening and talking:** *discuss the language used in adverts*

**Writing:** *make a collection of favourite promotional words and phrases*

4. **Marketing marvels 2** – choose an invention and develop a marketing campaign to sell your favoured product to the class.

**Reading:** *identify the language used in product advertising*

**Writing:** *create promotional text to market your product*

### **Cross-curricular connections**

1. **Making music** – find out about jive and boogie-woogie and see if you can track down some music to listen to. There is also something called hand jiving. Find out about it – can you make up a hand jive to go with Boogy Woogy Buggy?

2. **Buggy-making** – design and make a buggy with a motor and gears that can carry an Easter egg (or object of choice).

3. **Buggy-testing** – make a buggy and then test it to see how far it will roll down a given slope with varying surfaces.

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### *Homework suggestions*

- **Mad inventions** – design your own invention for an everyday machine. Label and annotate it to show the main parts, how it works, what it does. Give it a good name. too!
- **Advertising campaigns** – cut out and collect/display some favourite adverts from magazines which use words as well as images to promote a product.
- **Exaggerated claims** – choose an everyday item and try writing some ‘over-the-top’ claims for what it can do. Imagine you were trying to sell the last one at a market stall at the end of a Saturday – what would you say to tempt people to buy?