

Book Study - Blessu by Dick King Smith

About the Book:



Blessu is a very small elephant who suffers from dreadful hay fever - and although he's very small, he has a very large sneeze! Blessu doesn't grow very fast, except for one part of him - his trunk. And every time he sneezes, his trunk grows even bigger.

Curricular areas

Art (EXA 1-02a and 1- 03a)

We drew elephants by doing a rainbow shape and turning the underneath into legs and a trunk and adding a tail. We made a big background to stick our elephants on using different materials to build up a collage, looking for the right colours and sticking on grasses (the sort that might make Blessu sneeze!) We used finger painting to add the yellow pollen that irritated Blessu's trunk.

PSD (Social Wellbeing HWB 0-10a)

We talked about features that might make us different and why we should be proud. Shoulder partners gave each other nicknames which would suggest these differences and introduced each other to the class explaining their choices. We talked about how Blessu felt about being different and why it is important to accept people for their differences.

Writing (Lit 1-07a, 1-09a, Eng 1-19a, Lit 1-26a, 1-28a, 1-29a, Eng 1-31a)

The children were asked by the deputy head to come to her office as something very strange had happened. She took 3 children who discovered a letter sitting with a big stuffed elephant. The letter said,

Dear P2/3,
I can see from the walls in your classroom that you know all about elephants. I don't know how I ended up here! I am very cold and frightened and I have no friends. I can't understand what anyone says to me but I can read your writing. I wish I knew if you were friendly,

Lumpy the Elephant x

The children brought the elephant back to the class and told everyone what the letter said. They decided what to do - they would need to write a letter to Lumpy telling him they are very friendly and would love to look after Lumpy and be his friend. Lumpy then had a great day reading, playing games, being taken to other class and visiting the dinner hall. Fortunately he made his way back to Africa the next day and wrote a nice letter thanking the children for his visit.

The children couldn't get their paper quickly enough and were genuinely concerned for Lumpy's plight. This resulted in some very good writing.

The children also thought about elephant adjectives - how could we describe their trunk, skin, walk, trumpet etc.

They wrote about their own elephant characters and gave them an appropriate name.

They wrote about ambition. Blessu ended up with an amazingly long trunk that allowed him to do lots of amazing things. He also had an amazing sneeze! The children talked and wrote about the things they would like to be amazing at when they are fully grown.

Social Studies (SOC 1-13b)

The children were doing a project on fruit and vegetables and where they came from in the world to get to us. We designed a diet for Lumpy and Blessu, looking at the fruits and vegetables they might find growing where they lived.