

In an inclusive classroom, the development of cross-cultural as well as cross-curriculum links is helpful to develop a wider understanding of a curriculum area amongst children. It also fosters further interests, and develops a higher level of thinking and learning as the important spin off: children begin to make links that inform their reflections upon, and evaluation of a topic.

With this in mind Bernadette Tynan developed a ready-to-use lesson that can be developed over two or three lessons. Bernadette Tynan has given full permission for the following resource to be downloaded and used. It develops an unusual and enlightening cultural, cross-curricular, and historical link between Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' and the Edward Kamau Braithwaite's Ogun. Both of these poems featured in recent English Literature Anthologies and the whole activity proved popular with participants in recent workshops that Bernadette Tynan gave.

Getting Started:

What connects Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' with Braithwaite's 'Ogun'?

The entire lesson experience is grounded in the thinking framework developed in Bernadette Tynan's DIY book and continued through the Star Series, with attention to different learning styles: Visual, Auditory and Kinaesthetic built into the whole learning activity.

Set out below are the materials to make a series of what Bernadette Tynan calls 'knowledge banks'. These are made up of both text as well as visuals which can be used as OHTs and/or interactive learning materials to form a wall display based on what at first seems to be two different stories and pathways about two poets distanced by time and history.

However, what the students find is that these poets are closer than they first imagined, as are their concerns and what inspires them to write. As the students (particularly relevant for Key stage 3-4) explore the knowledge banks they find that the two paths are linked and from there develop sophisticated and enlightening cross-cultural and cross-curricular links. The spin off is information and ideas that encourage higher level thinking on many different levels amongst all children within a whole class context.

One knowledge bank path is about Haiti and an African-Caribbean hero in history called Toussaint L'Ouverture. It develops the stories of the Orixá (pronounced Orisha) religions that originate in Africa and have been developed in the African diaspora. The second knowledge bank path is about Wordsworth, and his work with his sister Dorothy, the events leading up to the day they discovered the 'Daffodils' and how that links to a friend of theirs called Thomas Clarke who lived in the Lake District at the same time as Wordsworth.

There is then also a lesser known poem of Wordsworth's entitled 'To Toussaint L'Ouverture'. Importantly the students do not have to follow the knowledge bank paths in any particular order. They are given a fact finding sheet that they complete, but much as if they were going around a museum they find the information as and when they come upon it.

Suggestions for background music including African and Afro-Caribbean music are given at the end of this document.

All eight comprehensive and ready-to-use Knowledge Banks from Bernadette Tynan's original workshop, plus the pre-prepared Fact Find: 'What connects Wordsworth's Daffodils with Braithwaite's 'Ogun' are given below.

What you will also need are the following that cannot be reproduced on this site for copyright reasons:

1. A copy of Edward Kamau Braithwaite's poem Ogun (many recent anthologies for English Literature provided to schools)
2. A copy of Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' (many recent anthologies for English Literature provided to schools).
3. A copy of 'To Toussaint L'Ouverture' by William Wordsworth available in the Penguin Classics English Romantic Verse p125, ISBN 0-14-042102-5 priced £7.99 and available from all good book shops or can be found at the shop at: The Wordsworth Trust Centre for British Romanticism enquiries@wordsworth.org.uk or contacting the Wordsworth Trust, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria LA22 9SH www.wordsworth.org.uk

Bernadette Tynan would like to add that having visited the Wordsworth Trust a number of times in researching for her work, she has found them to be extremely helpful and enthusiastic, and recommends them as they are very helpful toward those promoting education and understanding of poetry and cultural heritage.

4. For more on Edward Kamau Braithwaite's work and poems see <http://www.amazon.co.uk>

Suggestions for background music

Suitable background music can be purchased from:
<http://www.sternsmusic.com>