



Tameside reading quiz

In Tameside's highly popular key stage 2 primary school quiz, the public library service visits schools to test the knowledge of Year 5s and promote reading and libraries. The quiz has nearly doubled in size within three years.

"I can't believe how much they knew. I didn't know some of those!"

Year 5 teacher

"The quiz has inspired not just the team but the rest of the children to read more and to visit the library more often"

Literacy Co-ordinator

The effects

The Tameside Children's Book Festival School Quiz for Year 5s is a key date in the autumn term diary for primary schools: 32 schools took part in the third quiz last year. The quiz supports reading for pleasure and key stage 2 English (reading, speaking and listening) and allows schools flexibility in choosing their teams. The public library service reports more children in the quiz age group using libraries and taking part in activities, children reading more widely and talking about books more.

The experience

Ruth Lomas, Young People's Services Coordinator, Tameside Public Libraries

The Tameside Children's Book Festival School Quiz has nearly doubled in size since we started with 17 schools took part in 2005: we had 32 schools for the 2007 quiz. The idea came from an example of best practice in the Enjoying Reading resource pack which Tameside's public and schools library services developed. We looked at staff time available, how to make it fun and attractive to our schools to take part and how to use the quiz to promote enjoying reading, reading more widely and library use and how to make it fun. Headteachers, teachers and literacy co-ordinators from 17 Tameside primary schools joined us to work out the content and the practicalities.

The quiz takes place just before autumn half term as part of Tameside's Children's Book Festival. We visit each school that is taking part for the first round and ask a team of four Year 5 pupils questions about stories, books and reading. Schools are free to choose how they select their teams. Most of the rounds are multichoice and these include 'How well do you know your fairy tales?', 'Books on film and TV' and 'Prizewinners'. All the questions are answered by the team as a whole and they have three 'lives' they can use which include 'ask the audience' and 'ask an expert'. Other rounds involve other pupils from Year 5 reading extracts from books, acting out book titles and drawing pictures to represent book titles for the team to guess.

Each team member is rewarded with a book. The three teams with the highest scores go through to the final in one of the Tameside libraries where they compete to win books for

their school library. Most schools choose to have the junior school or the whole school as an audience when we visit for the first round. This is our chance to promote libraries, reading and the Book Festival activities over half term, to encourage children who are not library members to join and to increase use by those who are members.

Outcomes

More schools want to take part. More children share their reading with others and talk about books. More children visit public libraries and take part in activities. Children read more widely. Children enjoy reading more, contributing to their reading achievement. Children work together and all the teams taking part feel they have achieved something worthwhile. Books, reading and libraries are publicised to children, teachers and parents

"The quiz has inspired not just the team but the rest of the children to read more and to visit the library more often."

Primary school literacy co-ordinator.

"She seemed to have gone off reading at home before, but she absolutely devoured that book. She loved it and she wanted to take more books on holiday with her"

Parent of book quiz team member talking about the book all team members received for taking part

"We researched all the prize winners and then practiced at playtime, we found out lots and it was good fun."

Year 5 team member who answered all questions correctly in prize winners round without waiting for the answer choices to be given!

"That was wonderful, we'll definitely be taking part again next year."

Headteacher

"I can't believe how much they knew. I didn't know some of those."

Teacher

Resources and staffing

Tameside Schools Library Service (SLS) sponsors the quiz, providing books for the individual children who take part and the prizes for the winning school and other finalists. The SLS and the Delivery Team from the Public Library Service combine to come up with the questions each year. YPSC delivers the first round sessions in schools supported by either the local Branch Librarian or a member of staff from SLS. The final is held in a library supported by staff from both public libraries and SLS

Partners

- Tameside School Library Service & Schools

"I'm going to read loads to make sure I'm on the team next year!"

Year 4 member of the audience

"It was really good fun." "I loved it."

Team members

"This important and special event." Headteacher speaking to the audience before a first round session

"Libraries are wonderful places." Headteacher

"What a great way to promote reading." Teacher

"Everybody thoroughly enjoyed it!" Headteacher

Challenges

The popularity of the quiz may lead to changes in how the first round is organised, which must be done without losing consistency. It is important to ensure that schools taking part for the first time are as informed and prepared as those that have taken part before and to avoid misinterpretation in the outline of how the quiz works when providing information for schools. It is also important to keep headteachers informed but make sure that the teachers concerned know their class is taking part. It is worth contacting schools by phone the day before a heat, even if everything has already been confirmed. The quiz questions must reflect the children's interests, engage both team and audience and encourage everyone in school to read more widely. It is important to ask for feedback, take any points on board and develop the model each year.

The future

More schools taking part, with children involved in the development of the quiz.