



How do you feel about reading?

Simon and Laura are passionate about books and reading. Knowing the children in your class, invite them to discuss how they feel about reading. Talk about how everyone is different and likes books/reading in different formats – audio books, non-fiction, story books, graphic novels, picture books, comics, magazines... what do the children like? What do you like? Do the children like it when you read aloud to them? Why? Are there additions to the classroom that you can make together to help them with reading? For example, a cosy reading area; access to audiobooks; ear protectors for children who like to read in quiet; music for children who like to read with noises around them?

Non-fiction books

Simon reminds us that non-fiction books like *A Year of Pride and Joy* are a great way of finding out about the world. You could dip into *A Year of Pride and Joy* each week (52 entries, one for each week of the year) and learn 1 new fact in the information section related to that entry. Can the children use that 1 fact in conversation during that week?

Take a deep dive into the non-fiction books in your classroom. Invite the children to re-organise them into categories of their choice. Are there subjects missing that they are particularly interested in? Provide small cards and pencils, encouraging them to write one sentence reviews of non-fiction books. Add tape so children can display these nearby.

Detectives

Simon says that his favourite page in *A Year of Pride and Joy* is the one about the Detective. Check out this page together. Why is the image a silhouette? Have fun with some vocabulary – *anonymous, mystery, identity, clues*. Use this entry in the book to spark some different activities:

- Set up a detective agency – the entry in the book can help you
- Source some non-fiction books about being a detective, or some appropriate fictional detective stories – visit your local/school library
- Create a Detective character – do the children know any famous fictional detectives from books or TV? What will their detective look like? What will they be called?

What brings you joy?

Simon's book is full of people sharing something that brings them joy. As a group or in talking partners, discuss what joy means to the children, and to you. What other vocabulary do they associate with *joy*? What brings them joy? Is it an activity? People they are with? What senses are involved e.g. taste/smell if it is something they cook/eat?

Invite the children to draw, write, type, or make an audio recording of what brings them joy. You could use these to make a book or class audio collection.

Seeing yourself in the pages of a book

Growing up, Simon loved a book called *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend, because the main character was a boy who felt exactly like him. Simon says it is important for everyone to see themselves in the pages of a book. Invite the children to talk about their favourite books. Is there a character/s they identify with? How do they feel about that character/s? Do the children think there are characters missing from the book collections in their classroom/school? Can they get involved in improving this? Be ready for discussions about inclusion and representation.

Activities for *A Year of Pride and Joy*

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