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Reluctant readers...

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Learning & Teaching Fest
20th June 2017

Student Success: Adding Value through 'Learning Gain'



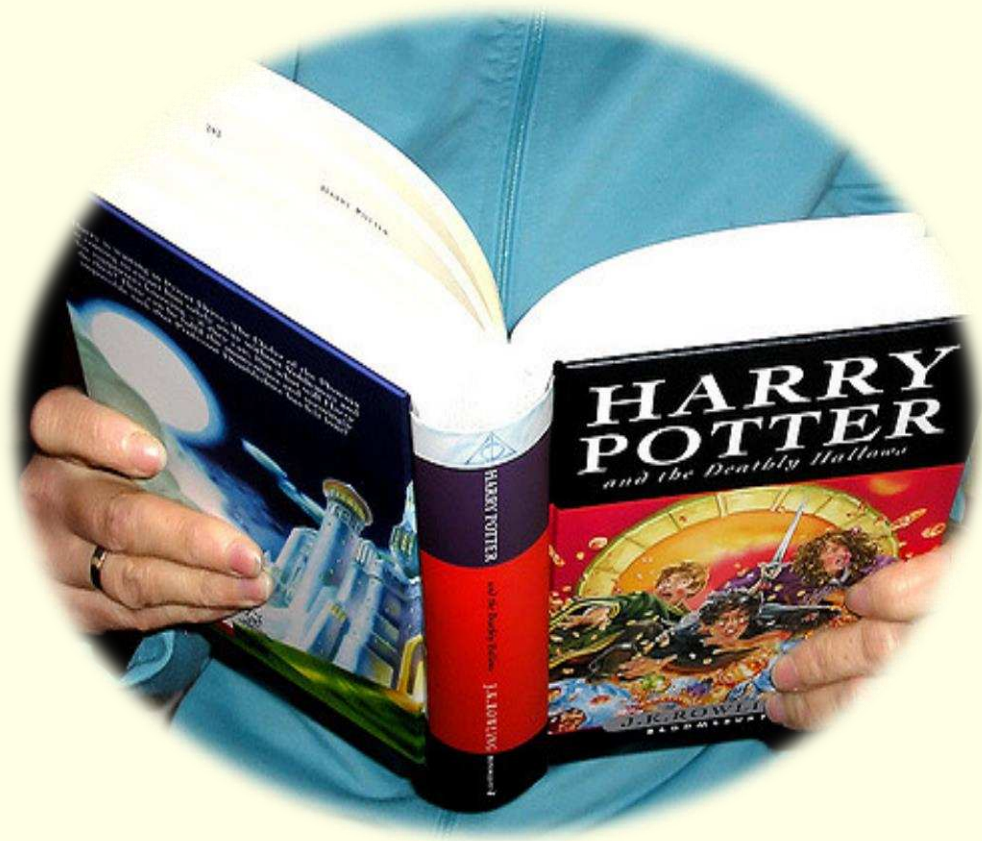
Aim of presentation

- To share my experiences of attempting to engage reluctant readers
- To explore your experiences
- To suggest ways to understand and overcome this reluctance

Mark Smith (2012) suggests that ‘... a good way of exploring pedagogy is as the process of accompanying learners; caring for and about them; and bringing learning into life.’

So in that spirit...

If you're sitting comfortably, I will begin...



“I’ve only ever finished one book in my life. It was the last Harry Potter – and I only read it ‘cos I wanted to know what happened, and I didn’t want to wait for the film to come out to find out...”

I look at the student as she speaks, and wonder how she has made it into the third year of a degree course....

Explore your experiences...

Consider your own experiences in teaching :-

- Have you encountered similar challenges?
- How have you addressed them?

Discuss these with the person next to you :-

- Are there any common themes?
- How does this contribute to learning gain?
For example, through improvement in knowledge, skills, work-readiness and personal development.

Share these with the rest of the group.



Ways to understand & overcome reluctance...

- Recognising difference – not everyone likes reading – however we need to engage with literature in order to learn
- Identifying a topic starting point, based on what students do enjoy for example :
 - Watching films, video clips
 - Fiction, poetry, music
- Reading together, for example:
 - Book clubs
 - Journal clubs
 - Unpicking an article together in a session
 - Collaborating on a topic – each find and contribute an article

Methods I plan to try next...

Pictures	Writing	Bringing learning to life
Critiquing picture books for young people and adults - designing own versions	Writing stories – fiction and creative non-fiction	Incorporating educational visits into assessed course work

Revisiting the start...

Once more, I am reminded of Smith words ‘... a good way of exploring pedagogy is as the process of accompanying learners; caring for and about them; and bringing learning into life.’

We can do this by:

- Being responsive
- Being supportive
- Caring for and about students
- Being honest and (when needed) firm
- Collaborating with colleagues to provide cohesive support

To continue the conversation...

Please contact me if you:

- Are interested in helping me to explore this further;
- Have other ideas for me to consider;
- Want to know more about my research.



References and further information

Smith, M. K. (2012). 'What is pedagogy?', *the encyclopaedia of informal education*. Available: <http://infed.org/mobi/what-is-pedagogy/> Last viewed 7/03/2017

Slide 1 image available from <http://maxpixel.freegreatpicture.com/static/photo/1x/Reading-Indoors-Learning-Person-Books-1427323.jpg> Last viewed 19/06/2017

Slide 3 image available: https://c2.staticflickr.com/2/1343/919322675_820047f81e_z.jpg?zz=1
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