


Ysgol Padarn Sant NPEP 2024-25



How does developing
genre awareness impact
children's confidence in
choosing books?



“There is no such thing as a kid who hates reading.
There are kids who love reading
and kids who read the wrong books.”



James Patterson

NPEP 2023-24 impact on enquiry this year:

- Previous enquiry: developing agency in choice of books and how this encouraged reading for pleasure.
- Really positive experience which has continued to encourage reading in school.
- St. Padarn's Bookies established to continue from last year's project.
- Noticed genre awareness wasn't as developed as anticipated, and hesitation from many children when looking for a book to read.

Child led-enquiry approach

- Continuing from last year's methodological approach. A research team of approx. 7 year six children, and 11-21 participants (depending on activity) aged 8-11 years old.
- Different dynamics – smaller group of participants: approx. 11 responses versus 30+ children previous year.
- Different focus – activities to develop genre awareness. They found this harder to do independently.
- Limitations – I was on sabbatical during the summer term which limited my time spent with the research team (e.g. couldn't carry out second round of interviews).

Ideas from the research team

brainstorm ideas for how much people know about genres

1. ~~Nation~~ quiz

2. interview

3. Giving someone a book ^{that we think they} like and then asking questions about the book.

4. National library trip so we can learn about genres and take notes to Brainstorm ideas for the next time we have a meeting. :)

• Questionnaire

How do you choose a book

How do you choose a new book

How do you know you like a new book.

How do you find out if that you don't like a book

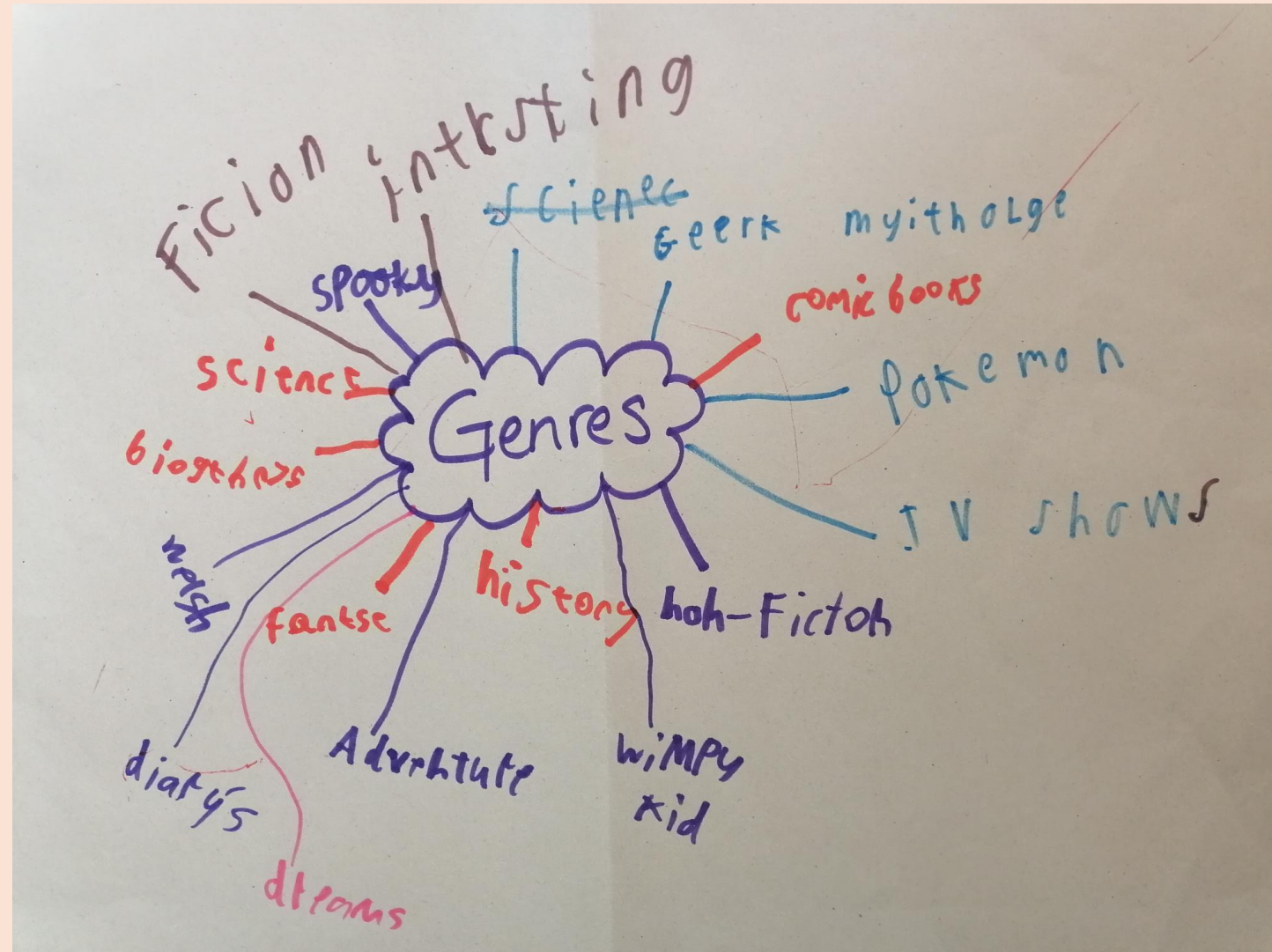
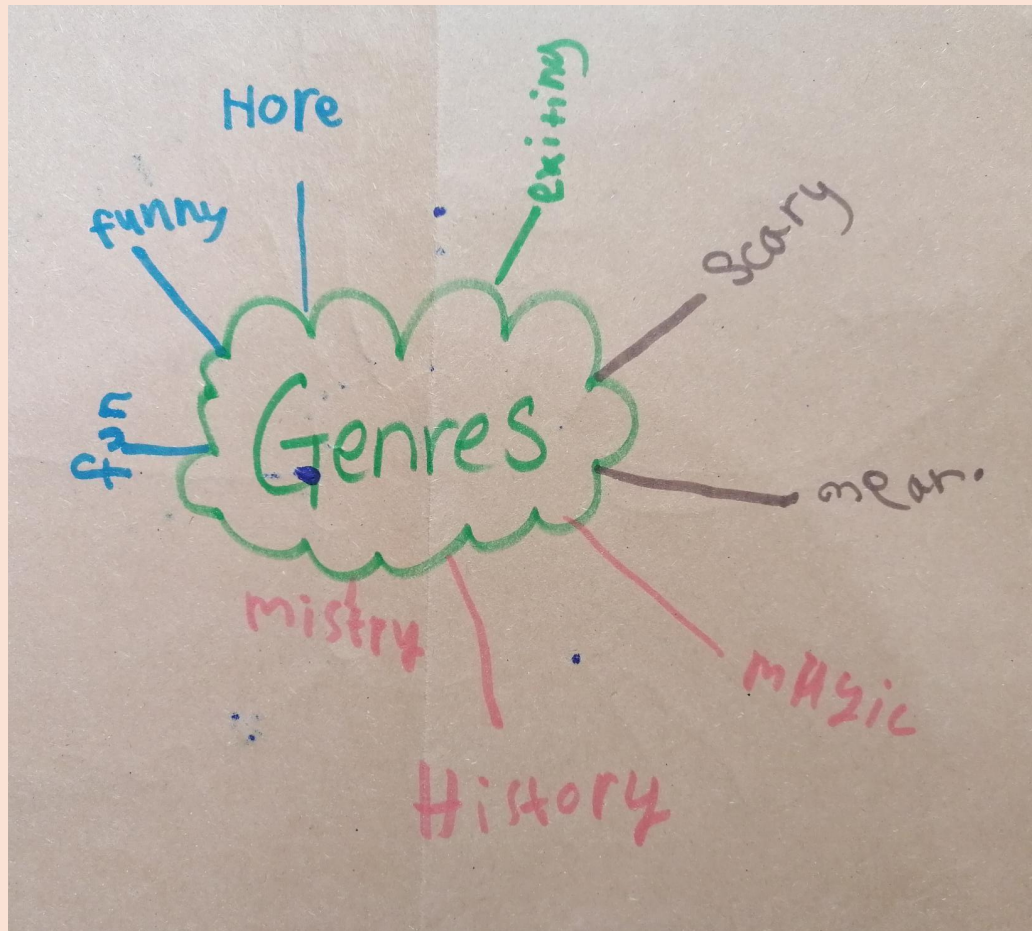
What's the topic of the book you're reading at the moment

Collecting data to understand their genre awareness

The Bookies organised their reading areas – class and library. They chose to do this according to genre (observational data).



Genre maps



Their understanding of genre was fairly limited to begin with.

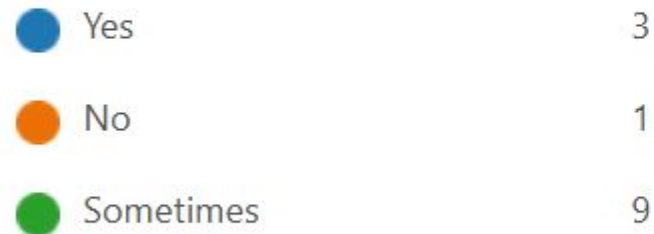


After our initial discussion about genre, one of the year 6 researchers wanted to go on a 'genre finding mission' (see list), she was surprised how many there were!

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Comedy | 21. Myth |
| 2. Comics | 22. Fairy tale |
| 3. Romance | 23. Adventure |
| 4. Drama | 24. Crime |
| 5. Action | 25. War |
| 6. graphic novel | 26. Silent |
| 7. horror | 27. Documentary |
| 8. history | 28. rock |
| 9. Education | 29. biography |
| 10. Animals | 30. Cooking |
| 11. Poetry | 31. Pop-up |
| 12. Musical | 32. business |
| 13. Fantasy | 33. Science Fiction |
| 14. thriller | 34. humor |
| 15. mystery | 35. tall tale |
| 16. Adventure | 36. Series |
| 17. religion | 37. Story |
| 18. Sci-Fi | 38. Fact book |
| 19. Sport | |
| 20. Animated | |

First questionnaires

Is it easy to choose and find a book you like?



- They tended to judge a book by its cover, including what genre it is.
- One child said they knew they would like a book because of the author and name.
- They know they don't like a book because of the 'theme' or after a few pages.

Interviews: child-led

Summary of interviews:

- they don't find it easy to find a book
- they would usually find an author they know, a cover they like
- some would just try a book and see if they like it
- use the front cover to judge genre
- tend to stick to the same
- all said they would use 'genre labels' to choose a book

Initial findings

- They prefer to choose books by genre – this is how they chose to organise their books in school.
- They had some genre awareness but not in depth.
- They felt that an understanding of genre would give them a better sense of agency and a motivation to try new books.

Developing Genre Awareness

- Visit to Aberystwyth Town Library (observational, discussion notes).

Discussion with research team at the library:

They didn't like how the library had organised the children's section (author, alphabetical).

They felt it was difficult to choose books if they didn't know authors.

They would choose by genre – 'where are the horror books miss?'

But struggled to find them as the genres were mixed. They were being drawn to the adult areas of the library – 'crime'. as these were organised by genre and then alphabetical by author.

Shows the importance of genre awareness in book choosing confidence.

An activity run by The Bookies to develop genre awareness

Genres			another person	characters
Realistic Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a story that takes place in the present events did not happen, but they could happen 	Historical Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a story that takes place in the past real setting made-up characters 	Science Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes elements of science and technology often set in the future 		
Fantasy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a story that could never happen in real life magic may be included 	Mystery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a story centered around a puzzling event the characters uncover clues 	Poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a verse written to stir the emotions of a reader rhythm and rhyme is sometimes used 		
Tall Tale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a type of folk tale with great exaggeration larger-than-life characters 	Fairy Tale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a folk tale that usually includes magic characters are often royalty, fairies, elves, etc. 	Myth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a folk tale that attempts to tell how something came to be characters are often gods 		
Fable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a short story that teaches a lesson characters are often talking animals 	Legend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a type of folk tale that is based on a real person it cannot be proven to be true 	Informational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a text full of facts about a topic diagrams, charts, graphs, etc. 		
Biography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a book about a real person's life written by another person 	Autobiography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a book about a real person's life the subject of the book is the author 			



By Deb Hanson

Realistic Fiction

Poetry

Fairy Tale

Science Fiction

Informational

Myth

Mystery

Biography

Fable

Historical Fiction

Autobiography

Tall Tale

Fantasy

Legend

They also carried out a 'genre scavenger hunt' using books in their reading areas.

Findings from final questionnaires (sample from 11 responses)

1. Do you know more about book genres now than before? If yes - what do you know now that you didn't before?

I did not know about horror books

Yes at first I never heard genres once

Yes there are a load of them

Yes autobiographies

Yes I didn't fully understand genres before

Findings from final questionnaires

2. How happy (confident) do you feel looking for and choosing books that you will want to read?

1 smiley face = not at all

6 smiley faces = very confident

4.45

Average Rating



Findings from final questionnaires

It was clear from these responses that their genre awareness was much more developed than previously.

3. Write as many genres as you can think of here:

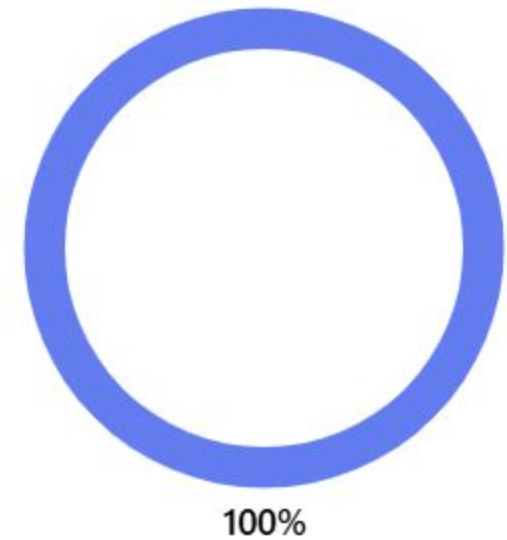
11 Responses

1	anonymous	Comedy drama thriller mystery comic adventurous diary history biography geography education documentary sports biology action
2	anonymous	Comedy mystery drama documentary education biology comic
3	anonymous	Sci-fi ,fantasy, fiction ,non fiction ,science fiction ,fairy tale ,long tale ,biography ,auto biography
4	anonymous	Drama romance funny comics action science biography autobiography fantasy fiction nonfiction
5	anonymous	Comedy, drama,romance, science fiction, comic, fantasy, autobiography ,fairytale,Non fiction, Historical fiction
6	anonymous	Drama comedy romance science fiction historical fiction non fiction

Findings from final questionnaires

5. Do you think it is easier to choose a book if they are organised into different genres?

● Yes	11
● No	0
● Maybe	0



Findings from final questionnaires

A sample of responses

it is easy because I know what genres I like so I can get on easier

Because then I can see which ones interest me more and so I can see what they are all about

It's easier to find the book you want

Findings from final questionnaires

7. Has the new system helped you find a book you like easier?

1 thumb = not at all

6 thumbs = yes, more than once

5.55

Average Rating



Summary of findings:

- Children tend to use what they know they like already to choose their next book, and organising by genre helps them to do this with greater ease and confidence.
- Finding a book can be daunting and off-putting if they don't know where to look.
- If they understand different genres, it helps them feel more confident choosing a book they think they will like.
- Organising reading areas by genre encourages them to try other books they may not choose otherwise and can broaden their literary experiences.