

Mood boards

Art & Design/Literacy

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To use different stimuli to understand more about the story
- To understand the different locations in the story
- To explore colour, texture and tone within the story world.

SKILLS TARGETED

- Collage
- Interpreting information from photographs and text
- Analysing and expressing meaning through different media
- Finding physical ways to interpret atmospheres and moods.

RESOURCES

- Photographs and pictures of the battlefields and of Devon
- Descriptions of the battlefield (eg Joey's Long Night/Anthem for Doomed Youth)
- Card and paper
- Scraps of coloured fabric, ribbon and other materials
- Coloured magazines
- Scissors
- Glue sticks.

SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- 15-30 minutes

Step 1

Ask the children to look at two distinctly different locations in the novel *War Horse*: Devon and the battlefields. They could read different sections of the story and also research images of rural Devon and of the battlefields using Google Images.

Discuss the differences between the two – colours, sounds, textures, mood etc

Step 2

Ask the children to create a 'mood board' for each location, on two separate pieces of card. This is an abstract collage of colours and materials that fit the mood and atmosphere of the location.

The children can use photos, coloured paper and fabric etc and put them together however they wish – this is an abstract exercise so they can use any form or layout for their ideas

Step 3

Use the mood boards as stimuli for creating scenes from the two different worlds of the story. Start with soundscapes of the countryside and of battlefields. Then ask the children to work in small groups to make frozen pictures representing the two worlds – for example a picture of a horse and plough, or a trench or battle scene

Step 4

Ask half the class to provide a soundscape of Devon (or play a suitable soundtrack), while the other half create their Devon pictures. Fade the sound out and change to a battle soundscape or soundtrack while the groups slowly morph their freeze-frames into their second frozen picture, showing the transition from Devon to France and the different moods/qualities of each.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will interpret the atmospheres of different scenes from the story
- They will explore the story using a range of stimuli including colour, texture, sound and movement
- They will think about the abstract expression of atmospheres and feelings.

