

# Using 'Booktalk in the classroom

Booktalk is one of the techniques advocated by the National Strategies and this resource is designed as a simple prompt to help teachers to encourage reflection, deeper thinking and discussion. For more support with developing thinking around texts, Aidan Chambers' book 'Tell Me: Children, Reading and Talk' is recommended reading.

This simple idea works well because of the nature of 'tentative talk'.

These tentative talk stems allow pupils to offer up suggestions regarding their response to the text without the fear of 'getting it wrong'!

Booktalk should be modelled by the teacher.

Booktalk can be used with a Booktalk Partner. Teaching Partner B to respond with 'Tell me more' encourages pupils to consider reasons for their initial response and naturally encourages them to give evidence for their response.

These prompts are designed to be displayed in the classroom as a visual reminder for the teacher and the children. The prompts are not an exhaustive list but are used in many classrooms to encourage talking and thinking about texts.

Children should be reminded that they are allowed to change their minds! This can also be modelled using the phrases...

- At first I thought ...
- But now I am thinking...

# 'Booktalk'

**It seems to me...**

**I wonder if...**

**Maybe...**

**I'm not sure but...**

# Use 'Booktalk' Partners

Partner A

It seems to me...

Tell me more...

Partner B