

Tell Me (Aiden Chambers)

Tell me is a 'booktalk' strategy which involves individuals thinking about texts, sharing their ideas with a group, and listening and responding to what others think. It can be used to help children think and talk about books that have been read to them or which they have read themselves.

Tell Me:

- Gives children a starting point for thinking, talking about and responding to texts.
- Requires pupils to express their own ideas as well as listen to and consider the thoughts of others.
- Extends the language children use to talk about texts.
- Allows pupils to compare texts, express opinions and information that assists their understanding of a text.
- Helps pupils to make text to self, text to text and text to world connections.

To begin thinking and talking about the text Chambers refers to 'The Three Sharings':

- Sharing enthusiasms – what the reader likes or doesn't like.
- Sharing puzzles (i.e. difficulties) – what the reader doesn't understand.
- Sharing connections (i.e. discovering patterns) – the connections that the reader makes, i.e. text to self, text to text, text to world connections.

This resource is a simple prompt for teachers to use with children to encourage discussion. It is important that we also work on building up the language that will support pupils to engage effectively in discussion. We need to model the use of language that will help pupils to talk about characters, setting, plot etc and enable them to share their responses. Example sentence stems such as the ones below are important to ensure pupils have the language they need to express their thinking.

- I think...
- I wasn't sure why...
- It made me think of...
- I liked the way...

For more support with developing thinking around texts, Aidan Chambers' book 'Tell Me: Children, Reading and Talk' is recommended reading.

Likes (What caught your attention?)



Dislikes (What put you off reading?)



Puzzles (Anything strange or surprising?)



Patterns and Connections (Does it remind you of anything?)

