



Book 3

Iris' Dream

wise up and th!nk
Teacher Resources

Idea Bank 1 Talk about...

- **fairy stories**

Explore local folklore by asking grannies, grandads, aunts, uncles, adults in school etc. to share any stories that they know about fairies. Engage in storytelling together back in class. You may wish to invite someone in to school to tell their favourite fairy story.

Compare city and country stories about fairies, and stories from different parts of Northern Ireland. If you have links with other schools in Northern Ireland or Europe, find out if they know any stories. You could also engage other classes in your school in a search for the most exciting fairy story.

Record the best stories for your class listening corner so that you can enjoy them again later, and/or post them on your school website.

- **believing and not believing**

Engage in a class discussion/debate about fairies. Try to persuade others of a point of view by giving arguments for or against the existence of fairies. Invite another class or school to take part.

- **the fairy hill**

Discuss these questions:

- What do you think the fairies do on fairy hill?
- What do you think they do with all the teeth that they collect?
- Are there different types of fairies?
- Do they have different roles and responsibilities?
- What do you think these roles might be?
- Do the fairies all have different names?

- **'Fairy Whispers'**

The fairy in this story was called Iris. Think of another name for a fairy, and play 'Chinese Whispers' to pass it round your group or class (whispering softly so that your neighbour can just about hear you). Then gather together all the different fairy names. Which are the most original and why?

- **encouraging others to listen**

In the story, none of the animals wanted to listen to Ant. Generate a range of options that you would use to:

- get attention when it's important;
- engage others in active listening (hold their attention);
- persuade others of your point of view or your idea; and/or
- know who is the most appropriate person to listen to you in different circumstances.

Idea Bank 2 Have a go at...

- **using a thinking frame**

Thinking frames help make the processes or steps involved in a particular thinking skill explicit. Use the Generating Possibilities thinking frame to help pupils organise their ideas and build on other ideas.

- **Art and Design**

Make a fairy hill in your classroom, playground, school foyer etc. Use junk materials or other 3D materials.

Make a unique, life-size model of a fairy (and/or elf or goblin). Think about the most suitable materials you could use, such as modelling wire, modroc and appropriate clothes. You could try:

- stuffing tights for the arms, legs and head;
- stuffing a pillow case and tying it in the middle for the body; and
- bending wire coat hangers for the wings.

Make stick puppets of fairies using card and lollipop sticks (or card and pencils turned upside down so that the sharp point is stuck to the back of the puppet). Use these to create your own class or group puppet theatre shows.

In pairs, one partner at a time describes the picture in their mind of a fairy. The other partner should draw the fairy described to them. (This could be a 'barrier game', with the drawing being done behind a 'barrier' so that the partner cannot see it.) Give the pairs an opportunity to evaluate and make any amendments necessary to create the most accurate representation they can of the picture in the child's mind.

- **Drama**

Hot seating – Ask someone to sit in the 'hot' seat and to take on the role of Iris (the fairy) or another character in the story. Take turns to ask the character how they felt at different points in the story and why they took the decisions that they did. The person in the 'hot' seat must answer in character.

Tableau – In groups, dramatise different parts of the story in sequence. Change the ending (or any other part of the story), if you wish. Challenge the pupils to create a funny, sad or happy ending.

Puppet Theatre – Create your own short play about the characters in the story. This could be a sequel to the story about Iris, Ant and friends.

Reader's Theatre – Record your own stories using the style of 'Reader's Theatre': the children read the parts in character. Listen to the stories in the listening corner.

Idea Bank 3 Investigate...

- **fairies around the world**

Find out about the following:

- Which other countries have stories about fairies in their folklore?
- Where did fairies originate?
- Which is the oldest fairy story that you can find?
- How have stories about fairies changed over the years?
- Are they always 'good' creatures?

- **floating and sinking**

Find out about the following:

- Which materials really do float best and why?
- Which materials are waterproof or absorb water at a slow rate?
- Which shapes stay afloat best and why?

In groups, draw a plan for a boat that will float. Decide on the materials that you need and how to join the materials together. Make the boats. Predict which boats you think will float best and why. Test your predictions: float the boats in a water tray or nearby stream. Decide:

- Which boats floated best and why?
- What improvements could be made to the boats to make them better?

Make the improvements and carry out the test again.

- **flight**

Find out about the following:

- Can you make wings that will help a small object to fly?
- What shapes work best and why?
- Which materials work best and why?

In groups, draw a pair of wings. List the materials that you will need and how to join them together. Make the wings.

Predict which sets of wings will be able to fly. Test your predictions by affixing the wings to an object (for example an empty matchbox or eraser) and letting them drop from a table top. Decide what improvements you could make so that the object stays longer in the air. Take time to make the improvements and retest the wings.

Generating Possibilities Thinking Frame

What is the problem you have to solve or the decision you have to make?

Which idea do you think is the best one?

What unusual ideas do you have?

What would work? What is your first idea?

What would work? What other things might be possible?



Useful Websites (click on the titles to follow the link)

Fairiesworld

Find out about fairy names and meanings, leprechauns, and really good tips on how to draw a fairy.

Ireland's Eye

Find out more about fairies in Ireland, including the banshee and leprechauns, here.

Disney

This colourful website includes lots of information about Tinkerbell, a very famous fairy.

Flower Fairies

Find information, colourful clipart images and activities here. You may also wish to browse the USA and German links for different pictures.

Peatlands in Northern Ireland

Visit Peatlands Park and find out about the variety of wildlife that lives on peatlands and boglands. Find out why it is important to conserve peat.