



Stonerise School

Class Oak Newsletter Spring 1st Half Term

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a fantastic holiday and enjoyed some great family time. We've got an action-packed half term focussing on Artists as our main theme. The question we will be trying to answer is:

Do you really call that art?

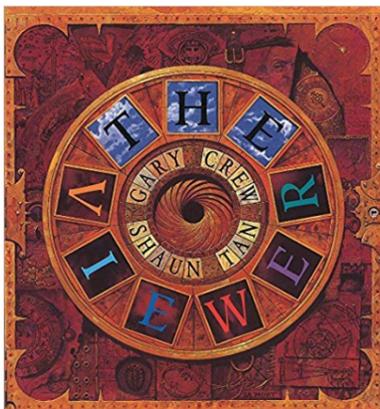
During the topic we will be exploring how artists experiment with media to create emotion in art. We will be able to talk about famous artists and the children will explain key elements about their work and life.



English

We will focus our attention on a picture book with a really deep story line.

Young Tristan, a curious boy who rescues all sorts of objects from the rubbish dump, finds an old Viewmaster in its elaborate box, complete with a set of disks. He finds that these represent the ages of humankind, seen as a cyclical structure in which patterns of growth and decay are repeated. Tristan becomes more and more drawn in to the world of the disks, and eventually disappears. The book is full of metaphors and symbols of seeing and watching, circularity and never-endingness, in a complex, fantastical tale, which was Shaun Tan's first picture book.



Not only will we explore this tale, we will also write a biography about an author of our choice, getting to know about their life and work.

Maths

Our mathematics will focus again on formal methods for multiplication and division. We will move onto exploring fractions, decimals and percentages and their relationship to one another. I am really keen to spend some time exploring the link between art and maths by focussing on the Fibonacci Sequence:



Science

In this topic, the children will learn about space. Starting with the Solar System, they look next at how ideas about space have changed over time, before finally exploring what causes us to experience night and day on Earth. We'll make links to art work that has been produced to represent our solar system.



Date for your diary: 24th January 2020 – Class Oak's Assembly

Other dates to follow: workshop with two reporters from the Cumberland News Group exploring how art is used to help portray news and how writing can be used as an art form. A workshop with a local illustrator who is about to have her book published this year. A trip to the Laing Gallery in Newcastle to explore their works of art and run a drawing workshop with the children.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

James Webb