

Appendix 1

February Half Term 2018 Enrichment Programme Account

Sunday 11th Feb – Macbeth at the Rose Theatre.

A group of 8 young people, foster carers and ST all attended an afternoon performance of “The Scottish play”. Macbeth is currently on the GCSE syllabus and three of the young people were in year 11. Two are on my interventions and this was a great opportunity to discuss the text in depth. This was in a small, intimate setting in a theatre which has been recently excavated and is on the site of the original Shakespearian stage. This is where Macbeth may have been performed over 500 years ago!

Monday 12th Feb

A group of 7 young people along with a foster carer and two teachers saw a dress rehearsal of, “Iolanthe” by Gilbert and Sullivan at the London Coliseum, the home of the English National Opera. This was a really fun introduction to opera, with the story line being about an improbable half fairy character (fairy from the waist up) and a production which involved lots of singing fairies flying on wires across the stage and a life size train bursting onto the stage. This production was truly one to reach across the ages. I had a 6 year old boy behind me, enthralled! All members of the group seemed to enjoy the evening, with N and D reporting on how good it was and that they liked the music. P said that it was very witty! Well done to SG for getting the care leavers along! The evening was well supported by both the team and foster carers! Let’s hope we get more of these lovely free tickets!

Tuesday 13th Feb

We met with the group of 10 young people at Ealing Broadway Station, took the 65 bus down to the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond. It was a horrendous wet and cold day, so we appreciated the ease of the long bus journey. We took two new members of the VS along, new to our outings, two sisters who attend BHS. Ages in the group ranged from 12 -17 years.

This was our first time at the Orange Tree. It was a very friendly and small theatre and we had seats both in the front and second row. This was a very intimate production, wonderfully acted by a mostly young cast and involving some very modern dance and musical aspects. In short, it was enthralling and all the members of the group loved it!

After the performance, there was a questions and answers session – just for us! - with the cast. Romeo arrived with blood still on his mouth! It really does make a difference to meet with the cast and learn about the entire acting experience and the pathways the actors have taken. The group did us proud with their questions. ST, MR and ZI accompanied the group here.

Alongside of this we ran a trip to the Lyric Theatre for the younger age group, 5 -8 years. This was to see the play "The Tortoise and the Hare". Primary phase teachers, ST and AO'C organised and accompanied the children and foster carers on this (see below SH's description of the day).

Wednesday 14th (Valentine's Day)

Workshop with James, story writer/ playwright and theatre producer. The idea was to support those doing KS2 SATs.

James started with warm ups and ways to get to know the group of 15 young people. Surprisingly we had 12 boys in the group! Several of the children were new to the holiday programmes and to Horizons and some had come from out of borough to join us. (Thanks to AO'C for enticing the D brothers across London to come and take part!)

Elements of writing a story were discussed and written down. Lots of interesting details emerged on the type of stories which were widely read – with fantasy/sci-fi being tops!

James gave his services free so we are most grateful. James was a contact via Opera Director and care leaver, R who we met at Holland Park and who spoke at the last Education Awards!

Thursday 15th Feb Music Day

This was the second in our choir sessions and focused not just on singing, but learning about musical instruments. The lovely volunteers who run the group, were all singers and musicians and also very skilled at engaging our children. Again, we had 15 children and young people attend and the ages ranged from 7 – 16 years.

The time was spent on both playing the instruments and singing. Warm ups included some "tongue twister" songs. Two brave children stood up to do solos here! The group was divided into sections and parts of the songs delivered, using rounds and harmonies. It was great fun. Let's hope the children all come back for the next choir session and experience the joy of singing! Thanks to ST, SO, MR, AO'C and ZI who supported the session.

Written by Sue Tarry

Tuesday 13th Feb – The Hare and the Tortoise at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith

On a rainy Tuesday we all met for lunch at the Lyric Theatre café in Hammersmith. The children's ages ranged from 3 -11 years old and altogether 5 carers and 9 children attended plus AO'C and myself. All the children were excited (not just ours!) and many children were excitedly exploring the interesting lay-out of the Lyric before the show.

One 3 year old had her carer, Alison and myself taking turns to 'run' around the café area and theatre with her exploring the interesting spaces and helping to keep her occupied.

We were delighted that three 3 year olds attended, 2 of whom we'd never met before. We met one new carer and although three carers were known to me, I hadn't seen them for several years so it was good to touch base with them again.

The show was very good, especially the tortoise. There were two actors (from the Pied Piper Theatre Company) and it was set in the studio in quite an informal setting – suitable for the younger viewer. The 'race' actually happened in the last section of the 50 minute show. The majority of the play focused on the wonderfully acted tortoise emerging from her hibernation and the hare's eager anticipation of her finally walking up and being able to spend time with his friend. Four season changes were included with stunning props, as well as the growing of vegetables and a summer holiday with tennis, picnic and fishing. The audience was encouraged to clap at times, there was a *Steelpan playing and the actors walked into the central aisle at times to show the bouncing colourful butterflies at the end of their metal sticks.

**NB A steelpan is a musical instrument, a drum originating from Trinidad and Tobago. Steel pan musicians are called pannists.*

The Tortoise and the Hare account, written by Sian Hender

Everyone (adults and children) enjoyed the show and it was nice spending time before the show getting to know the children and chatting with the carers. The programme contained not only info about the actors but also had a word search and things to colour, which the children took home eagerly. When I was talking to one three year old about the characters and said that my favourite was the tortoise, she looked slightly defiant and said a bit indignantly, 'But I like the green one!' The tortoise certainly seemed to be the favourite!

After the show, I sent out the following link to the carers so that their children can access online Aesop's fables, if they particularly enjoyed the fables and wanted to access more. <http://www.taleswithmorals.com/>

ST Summing up – This has been an unusual half term, with interventions going on all week, also a Sunday trip. Overall numbers were good and we managed to reach a wide age group. This included several sibling groups who do not live together and this provided them with a good opportunity to get together. Lots of foster carers support so well done to those that supported their children and young people to access these excellent activities.

The teachers in the VS all took part in some way and contributed to the success of this week.

Photos to be added soon- ZI and SH were able to take some during the session.