

## **Key Stage 2**

In keeping with this year's Children's Book Week theme of **words and pictures**, the following simple yet fun activities are suitable for Key Stage 2 children.

### **Call my bluff**

This is a great game to fill in a small amount of time before play or at the end of the school day.

- The teacher gives to the class one obscure word and three possible meanings, only one of which is correct.
- The children have already been divided up into small teams. The teams confer, discuss and guess the correct meaning; points are awarded for each correct answer.
- The children must look up the dictionary definition of the word to check for themselves each time, gaining valuable dictionary practice as well as an increased vocabulary!

### **Calligrams**

A calligram is a word written in such a style that it evokes the meaning of the word itself. The object here is for the children to have fun *with words through* pictures.

Give the children a selection of words which they have to present in this way. Put some examples up on the blackboard first to give them the idea.

- ghost
- rainbow
- giant
- fat
- thin
- bubble
- shaky
- circle
- spin
- tiny
- stairs
- bumpy

Demonstrate how to use a word processor to create calligrams. Discuss the effects achieved by changing font size, colour and space

e.g.



WAVES



Perspective

### **Never judge a book by its cover**

Choose four or five novels with interesting front covers. Black out or hide the title of each. Pupils pick one which appeals to them. They must choose their own title for the book and make up a blurb to go with it. In doing so they must consider:

- genre
- characters
- plot
- target readership

On completion the children can share their work with each other. The teacher can reveal the actual title of each book and read out the real blurb for the work.

Moving on from this:

- Discuss what makes a good front cover and its importance in attracting potential readers.
- Look at a selection of examples and ask the children to comment on whether or not these are successful in encouraging the reader to open and read the book.
- Read out the title and the blurb from an existing novel and ask the children to design their own front cover.
- Share the real front cover and compare and contrast with the children's own work.
- The results can be displayed alongside the real novel and made into an interesting and colourful class display for Children's Book Week.

The children could be asked to design an alternative front cover for a book which the class has already read. This may be easier for some as they will have the advantage of knowing what the book is about and may find it less of a struggle to come up with ideas.