



Thought for the Week

I'll be honest, sometimes I just feel like giving up. Shutting off the laptop, hiding my car keys, turning off my phone and going back to bed. The week just gone was one of those times for me; the delicate balancing act wobbled and things began to feel a little overwhelming. It was very, very tempting to just go on strike from life.

It reminded me a little of what is, in my opinion, the most depressing book in the Bible, Ecclesiastes, which opens with the words, 'Everything is meaningless'. I would not advise you read it if you're already feeling a little low! I used to wonder how this book made the cut into the Bible in the first place.

But I realised that's sort of the point: the Bible contains the entirety of human experience, not just the good bits. Even Jesus is shown in despair in the Garden of Gethsemane (although the moment passes pretty quickly!). And there is some comfort in this – knowing that we are not the only ones who feel overwhelmed; that it is part of the warp and weft of what it means to be human to have the challenging moments alongside the good ones. It is in Ecclesiastes that we find the famous passage that reminds us that all things pass – the good and the bad:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,

... a time to plant and a time to uproot,

... a time to tear down and a time to build,

... a time to weep and a time to laugh...

I hope that in this run-up to SATs, GCSE and A Levels, you have the opportunity to think carefully and act wisely with your time, and that, in the words of the Teacher in Ecclesiastes, you make sure to remember that "there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live".

Gillian Georgiou – RE & SIAMS Advisor

Important Updates and Messages

Support to decolonise and diversify the curriculum

The [Chartered College of Teaching](#) has produced a series of free webinars to support school leaders and teachers to develop practice.

Membership of the Chartered College of Teaching is needed to access these resources.

Go to: my college/ professional learning and accreditation/my courses/ decolonising and diversifying the curriculum series.

There is a series of 6 x 2 hour webinars which provide a structured programme of development –

Module 1: Defining decolonisation

Module 2: knowing our histories

Module 3: Why decolonise and diversity the curriculum

Module 4: Approaches to decolonising and diversifying the curriculum

Module 5: Belonging in literature

Module 6: Conversations about race



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) resources



Leaders may or may not be aware of this useful resource from NAHT [NAHT-EDI-Calendar-2022.pdf](#)

This resource celebrates diversity in its many forms whilst providing a useful reference of dates and events.

It may help schools to map religious and cultural celebrations or to reflect awareness days and other events as is appropriate to their setting.

Picture News

Picture News has brand new advocate area showing good use, and providing ideas for how to use Picture News:

www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/advocates



Weekly News Resource

Learning from the world around us!

Each week we choose a current news story, provide an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources.

Picture News has transformed the 'Soul Health' of our entire school community. We begin each week with our whole school family together in worship focusing on the 'Big Question' where everybody is given time to consider, think, reflect, respond, pray (if they wish), hope, dream, imagine make connections. It is making current events more real, relevant and easier to comprehend. Weekly whole school worship is followed the next day by class based worship where every single member of our school family can dig deeper into their own thoughts, beliefs and feelings about the focus topic, gaining a greater understanding of how these impact on the way they live their own lives.

Thanks to the quality, content and timely weekly arrival of the Picture News resources, our Collective Worship is inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It is helping to develop a level of emotional literacy across our entire community that has the power to change lives; to heal; to bring hope. Making explicit the links to FBV and UN Rights of the Child is empowering children (and adults) to believe that they have the ability to colour the world ... one act of kindness at a time.

Fiona Booth, St Nicholas CE Primary Academy, Woad Farm Road, Boston, Lincolnshire

Picture News are also running a 4-week free trial this half-term for schools wanting to try this resource - schools can register here to take part: <https://picture-news-online.co.uk/4-week-trial/>

Resources – Tom Palmer

Tom Palmer is the author of 55 books for children including three Puffin series. Winner of the FCBG Children’s Book Award. Thrice nominated for the CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL. Winner of 25 UK book prizes. Recipient of the 2019 National Literacy Trust’s Ruth Rendell Award for Services to Literacy.

“After the War - from Auschwitz to Ambleside” is Tom’s award-winning children's book about the three hundred child concentration camp survivors who came to the Lake District over 75 years ago.

"The best children’s fiction book I’ve yet read about the Holocaust." CEO Anne Frank Trust UK

“Resist” is his forthcoming 9+ WW2 children’s story, published by Barrington Stoke on 4 August 2022 about the inspiring Dutch wartime resistance childhood of Audrey Hepburn - if you’d like to know more about Resist please sign up here <https://tompalmer.co.uk/resist/> (including posters, films and classroom resources from August).