

Maps as Stories: Estate Kids

Starter activity

Discussion:

- Do you think your home town is a good place for children to grow up?
- List five activities or features associated with your home town.
- List adjectives to describe those activities or features. You can use a thesaurus.

Activity 1: Map making

Mapping

- Based on the list drawn up in the starter activity, map your own world putting yourself at the centre.

Activity 2: Close reading

'Estate kids' by Savitri Hensman

In groups of four, read the poem and then divide it into four. Each person in the group should take one part of the poem and think quietly about the question below which relates to their part of the poem. Now discuss your answers with the group.

- Title and line 1: What do you think 'Children of concrete means?
- Lines 2-6: Do these help you to understand 'children of concrete'? What sort of lives does the poet think the 'children of the concrete have ahead of them?
- Lines 7-9: What does the young plant have to do with the children? What do you think of this simile?
- Lines 10-11: What do you understand by the word 'blooming' at the end? Can you explain how the place where you are growing up is similar or different? Can you think of a new simile for children in your area?

Activity 3: Writing activity

Write a group poem about where you live. First, as a class, shout out ideas for a descriptive title: "Children of..."

- Look back at your maps, your activities, your people, your similes and your adjectives.
- Now write a line in big clear letters on a big bit of paper. (Each person writes one line).
- Arrange everyone's bits of paper in a horse shoe or pin them to the wall to make a group poem.

Activity 4: Conclusion

- What did you learn about maps?
- What did you find most difficult?
- What did you find most interesting?
- What new vocabulary did you learn? List a minimum of two examples of vocabulary.
- If you could change one thing about the session, what would it be?
- If you could add one thing to the session, what would it be?