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DAY

AGES
5-8

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR MASTERCLASSES

NOTES FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

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PAMELA BUTCHART: FRIENDS, FUNNY BOOKS AND CITIZENSHIP



BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

GET IN THE ZONE!

In her film, Pamela Butchart talks about how her books are about four best friends at primary school – but not just any primary school – one where LOTS of weird and spooky things happen from time to time!

To get children ready for their Share a Story Challenge from Pamela Butchart, ask them to split into groups of four – just like the best friends in *The Phantom Lollipop Man!*

Ask each group to come up with a weird or spooky thing that might happen in their school. For example, in one of Pamela's stories, a teacher turns into an alien and wants to take over the entire

school! In another, some demon dinnerladies come to school and try to poison everyone with a disgusting shepherd's pie!

Ask children to consider how the weird and spooky thing that they have chosen might affect the different people in their school community. How would everyone need to work together to save the day?

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

Taken from pages 1-23 of The Phantom Lollipop Man! (you can download the extract at worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/friends-funny-books-and-citizenship).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What strange or spooky things happen on page 2? List at least two.
2. Who has gone 'missing'? What do the children in the school think has happened? How do they feel?
3. What can you tell about the relationship between the narrator, Jodie, Zach and Maisie?
4. How is the new Lollipop Lady, Mabel, different to the old Lollipop Man?
5. Why did most people not like the Lollipop Man? (pages 8-9)
6. What is the effect of the different sized words and speech bubbles in this extract?
7. What does the narrator think might've happened to the Lollipop Man? (pages 10-11)
8. How do the children feel about the fact that Miss Jones doesn't know who the Lollipop Man is?

FUN ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1: YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

In the film, Pamela Butchart explains how The Phantom Lollipop Man! is based on a true story from when she was little, about a Lollipop Man who disappeared one day without anyone even knowing his name.

- Think about your school community, not just the teachers and the Headteacher, but also the classroom assistants, the office assistants, the dinnerladies, and the Lollipop Man or Lady. How many people make up your community? How many of their names do you know / not know?
- Make it your mission to find out the names of all of the people in your school who you don't know. Create a School Register just for these people to help you remember everyone!

ACTIVITY 2: A PLEDGE TO BE NICE

Pamela talks about how it is important to do something nice for people in your community to show them that you know them and that they're part of your community – even if it's just giving them a smile and saying hello!

- What are some of the nice things that you can do for people on a daily basis to show them that you care about them and that you appreciate what they do? For example: waving hello, smiling, or asking someone how his or her day is going.
- Write a Pledge for how you are going to do something nice for someone every day. Who are you going to do it for? What are you going to do? What effect do you think your actions can have?
- Stick your Pledges on the wall to create a classroom display and to remind you of the small things you can do to make your community a better and more caring place.

ACTIVITY 3: LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR FRIENDS

Pamela Butchart says that friendships are really important in all of her books. Her four central characters have to work together and look after each other. When scary things are happening, this can be especially difficult!

Think about all of your friends and their special talents, abilities and skills. What are they? Then, consider your friends' weaknesses. Make a note of what you think they might be.

- For each of your friends' weaknesses, write down a solution for how your strengths can support them. For example, if one of your friends is a 'scaredy-cat' like Maisie in *The Phantom Lollipop Man!* – perhaps you would help by being strong and brave, or by simply offering a shoulder to cry on.
- Do the same again but this time consider your own weaknesses. How do your friends return the favour and help you to be a better version of yourself?

SHARE A STORY

Make connections with everyone in your community through books and reading! Draw a map of people in your school, or write a list of all of them on a sheet of paper. Then, use your empathy skills to think about which books you would recommend to each of them and why. Take ten minutes to share your map or list of recommendations with your school community – give them the gift of a story to read this month!

SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION...

AN INSPIRING SHARE A STORY CHALLENGE FOR YOU from Pamela Butchart...

Write a story as a whole class – and yes, that includes any teachers and teaching assistants! Your challenge is that you all have to tell at least one line of the story. You can all get up, you can stand in a big circle, or you can come out in groups to the front. Don't forget to mention one of the props that Pamela shows you in her video: a baby alien, a cat, a scary ice cream scoop, a cute little pug, or a weirdly shaped crisp! Have fun, be sure to use silly voices, and don't forget to laugh lots together!

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more brilliant Masterclass films and resources featuring amazing authors and illustrators over at worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses. Don't miss out, download them today!