

NATE Multicultural Diversity Committee...a long history of celebrating active learning and literature from around the world

The Nate M/C Diversity committee (now working group) has a long history of sharing good practice on interactive learning through talk and discussion of literature, promoting pupil engagement that is friendly to all pupils but particularly those who are new to English. These ideas about pedagogy, the use of language in the classroom and pupils' own life experiences are distinctive, based on seminal research into how pupils acquire and enrich their spoken and written language, and are rooted in good English teaching.

The work of Joan Goody, a founder member of NATE, Head of English at Clissold Park Comprehensive School, established this committee over forty years ago and introduced teachers to new poets and novelists, disseminating the books via *New Beacon Bookshop* <https://www.newbeaconbooks.com/> and showing teachers how they could be used to support children's talk, reading and writing.

Over the last decade the NATE M/C Diversity committee has continued to promote of talk and active engagement with a wide range of literature. The Collaborative Learning Project website (<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/>), has many examples of the recent work of the committee including work on: KS2, KS3, KS4 texts; Ground Rules for talk; a set of Key Stage 3 schemes of work based on Autobiography and Reading Around the World which includes an open ended template for planning schemes of work; materials on Active Storytelling though talk and drama in Junior Schools in Europe with the Comenius Association.

We are now developing new resources around Asian literature and planning a workshop on Asian Film and Storytelling in multilingual classrooms by revisiting the work, for example, of Satyajit Ray. Work is also in progress for a workshop/teaching scheme on how Kurosawa and Polanski interpret Lady Macbeth on film.

If you wish to join our network and be part of our WhatsApp group please send email address and mobile number to: Valerie Coultas, Author of *Constructive Talk in Challenging Classrooms* valerieharry@aol.com or Stuart Scott, Director of the Collaborative Learning Project. Stuart.scott@collaborativelearning.org