Join our training sessions, 17 and 22 March 2021

Using stories to integrate empathy education into existing school and public library priorities and practices

Increased empathy is good for society and vital for young people's life chances. And has never been more needed. Psychologists highlight its central place in the bank of social and emotional skills young people need - without strong empathy skills, they will struggle to form the strong relationships they need to learn and thrive.

Come to our first-step training with EmpathyLab, the founders of Empathy Day. Our strategy builds on scientific evidence showing that empathy is a learnable skill and that reading is a potent empathy-building tool.

Our ready-made tools help those working with young people build empathy, literacy and social activism through a more systematic use of high-quality literature. Our latest report shows the impact of our in-depth, whole-school empathy education programme.

We are now opening up the EmpathyLab to new partner schools, and to library services working with an empathy focus. This training will be especially useful for organisations planning to participate in Empathy Day, 10 June 2021.

“Research identifies empathy’s relevance to behaviour, mental health and achievement. There is a pressing need to avoid ‘bolting on’ work on children’s socio-emotional skills, and EmpathyLab’s strategy of integrating work on empathy with literacy and reading for pleasure is efficient, and hugely potent.”

Professor Robin Banerjee, Centre for Children’s Relationships, Emotional and Social Skills, University of Sussex

Two CPD sessions make up a foundation course, in partnership with the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

17 March 9.30-12.30 and 22 March 12.30-3.30

Led by Miranda McKeerney OBE, founder of EmpathyLab and The Reading Agency

Aims: to harness the power of schools and libraries to develop empathy at a time when it is so badly needed. To lay the foundations for schools’ and libraries’ empathy strategies, working towards major participation in Empathy Day on 10 June 2021.

Who should come: Senior Leadership Team members; English and literacy co-ordinators; other relevant staff e.g. pastoral/PSHE leads; school librarians; public library staff; students

www.empathylab.uk  @EmpathyLabUK  laura@empathylab.uk
You will learn about

- The different elements of empathy and its importance in education and wider society
- The research showing how books and book-talk can build empathy
- How schools and libraries are achieving their development priorities by integrating work on empathy with literacy and reading for pleasure
- How to teach children about empathy, and develop their empathy skills and social activism
- Which books are good for empathy-focused work, and why

You will develop

- Your understanding of how your school or library can use books to build empathy, literacy and social action
- Your own plan for work leading up to Empathy Day in June
- Your next steps in working with EmpathyLab

Areas covered in foundation training

**About empathy and how books build it**

- Empathy: what it is (and isn’t) and how it works in humans
- Empathy and books: research on how books and talking about them builds empathy
- Factors to consider in choosing empathy-building books

**Empathy work in learning settings**

- The importance of empathy, for children’s life chances and for communities
- Groups: the most important empathy links and aims in my school/library

**Empathy, literacy and social action**

- Teaching about empathy
- Links to literacy and reading for pleasure
- Social action

**Being an empathy role model**

- Empathic listening
- Listening Switch exercise

**Empathy Day in your school/library**

Impacting on children and communities
Planning and sharing

**Round up Q&A; evaluation**

Booking details

Cost is £175 per delegate + £150 for second person. This covers the two sessions which are designed to make up one full training day. Members of the School Library Association are eligible for a 10% discount. To register your interest contact laura@empathylab.uk

www.empathylab.uk @EmpathyLabUK laura@empathylab.uk
“Since coming to the EmpathyLab training day, I have felt utterly inspired. I have been teaching for over 20 years and it was, without a shadow of a doubt, the most important and worthwhile training I have done.”

Pippa Probert, English and Drama teacher, Amesbury School

“A major influence on raising standards in reading within the school is using empathy as a tool to develop understanding, within texts and concepts, and reading for pleasure.”

Inspector visiting St Michael’s Primary School, Rochdale, an EmpathyLab pioneer school

“In our empathy work, we’re learning about the real world and we’re all part of it. Like, everyone, not just us and the people we know. Some people in Yarmouth should treat the refugees kindly because, at the end of the day, we’re all humans.”

Troy, Year 6

“If other people, who maybe aren’t so nice, read some of these books, maybe they would change the way that they acted. They would think more and maybe understand more. I think they should all read more. Perhaps schools should discuss empathy in books every week because it would help people so much.”

Romy, Year 5

“If you learn about empathy and read books that include it, it helps you get more from your reading. When I feel empathy in stories, I slow down, sometimes stop and think so much more. I turn the pages more slowly.”

Ethan, Year 5