#### SKH ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Empowering your students in the new normal: Tools to inspire a meaningful classroom experience

SPEAKERS:
Mr Dennis TAM (ENGLISH PANEL)
Ms Tina Po
Ms Ann Wu
Mr Toby Ng

Fung Ho Kwan, Jeanda School-based Curriculum Development (Primary) Section, EDB How can we connect our students with the world of learning through both online and face-to-face lessons?

# The Challenges we are facing

- We seem to be asking teachers to make big leaps; to dramatically adjust their practices; to incorporate new tools; and to reimagine what learning and teaching looks like during class suspension period.
- We have no specific online curriculum, so we are cobbling together our own solutions using a myriad of platforms and apps, from PowerLessons to Google Classroom
- How can we help students connect their life experiences, add values, widen their horizons and improve their reading abilities continuously via Reading across the Curriculum (RaC)?
- How can we make good use of our communication channel with students to promote both RaC and the effective use of technology so that students can read wherever & whenever they can?
- We need to make the most of digital media, which provides students with a vast amount of information and resources, for effective learning during class suspension time.

# Our aims & objectives

- Make connection between learning and daily life experiences and global issues
- Expose them to multimodal representations authentic, varied text types
- Develop reading skills and strategies that hook students' interest in reading & purpose of reading
- Empower students through VOICE let them actively contribute their ideas even for online learning.

# Some background

- Years of experience in promoting Reading To Learn and now Reading Across the Curriculum
- PSMCD + English Panel+ 5 experienced English teachers were put to the RaC core group
- Levels: P. 1-6

## Themes to be shared today

House & homes around the world (P. 1)

Amazing Animals (P. 2)

Green Christmas (P. 3)

Matilda & Narnia (P. 4, 6)

P. 1

# Houses & Homes around the World

Having a loving home

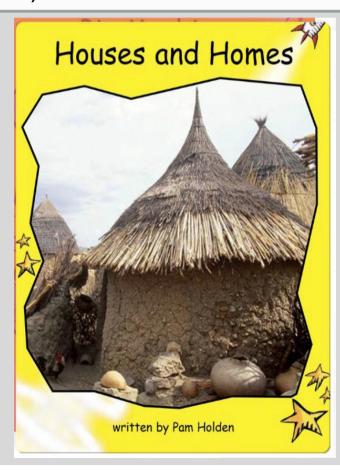
### **Primary 1**

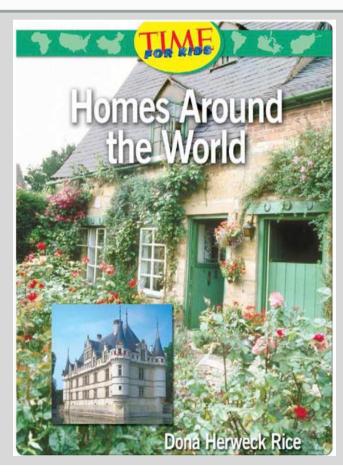
Topic: LH Unit 1 - Home sweet home (extended part)
Aims & objectives:

- 1) To broaden students' horizons so that they have a knowledge about how houses and homes around the world are like
- 2) To expose students to different multimodal texts

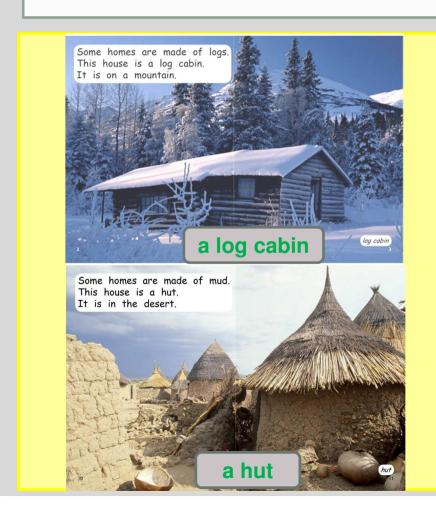
Values Education: To love our home and family regardless of the size of our house/home, a house/home is a good one if it is full of LOVE

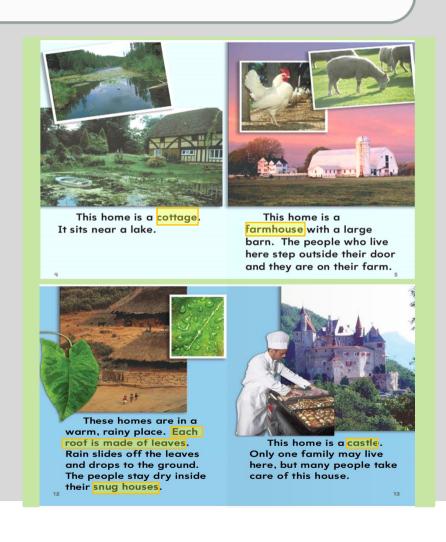
- Reading of non-fiction books from an online reading platform:
  - a) "Houses and Homes
  - b) "Homes Around the World"



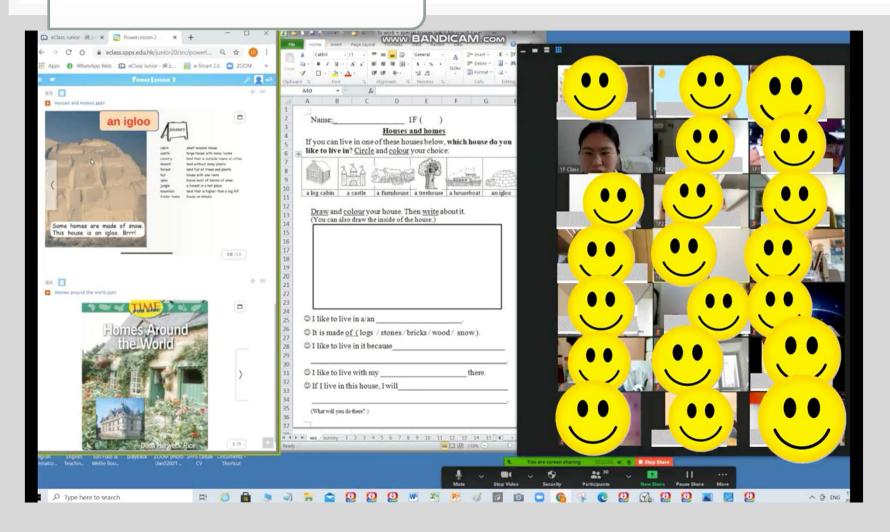


- Reading of non-fiction books from:
  - a) "Houses and Homes
  - b) "Homes Around the World"



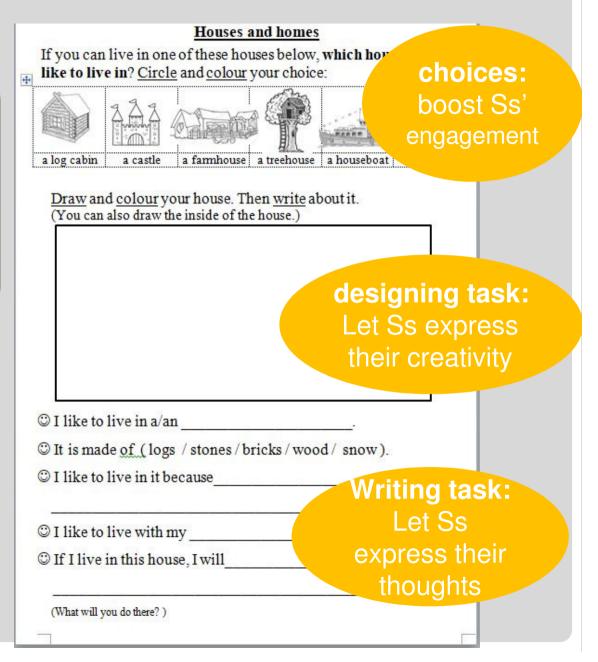


Discussion of the books

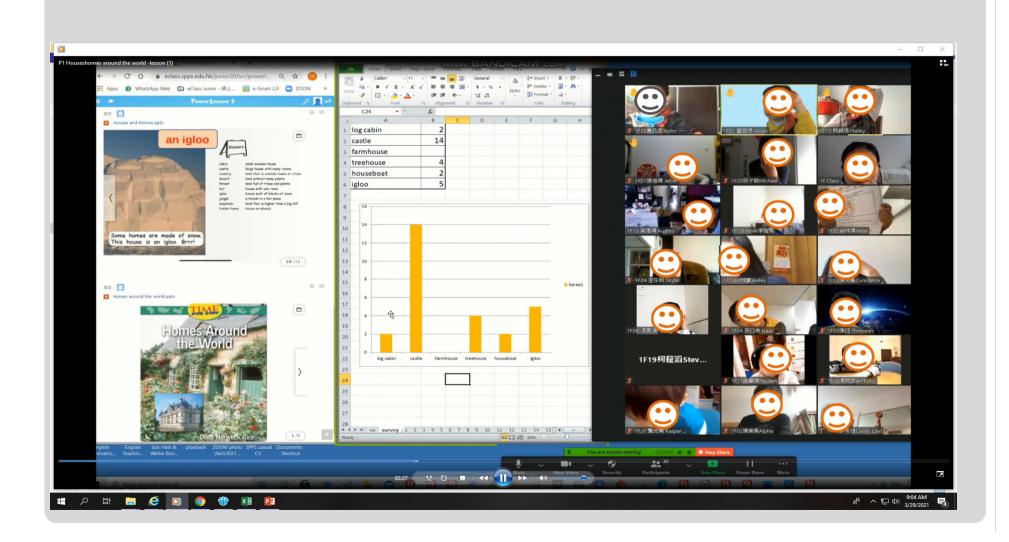


# sharing of ideas

- Mini book-report:
  - a) Students' own choice of house
  - b) design + reason + plan

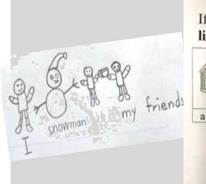


A simple survey



Mini book-report:

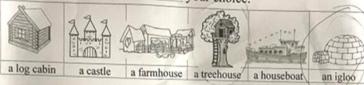
sharing of ideas





#### Houses and homes

If you can live in one of these houses below, which house do you like to live in? Circle and colour your choice:



Draw and colour your house. Then write about it. (You can also draw the inside of the house.)



- 1 like to live in a/an ig/00
- Tis made of (logs / stones / bricks / wood / snow).
- The to live in it because I can play with penguin
- © I like to live with my Rengul n there.
- The state of the s

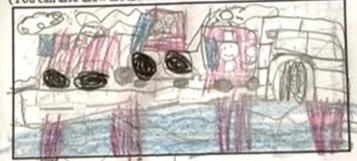
Name;

#### Houses and homes

If you can live in one of these houses below, which house do you like to live in? Circle and colour your choice:



Draw and colour your house. Then write about it.
(You can also draw the inside of the house.)



- OI like to live in a/an 100
- It is made of (logs / stones / bricks / wood / snow).
- OI like to live in it because it is cold

© I like to live with my father there.

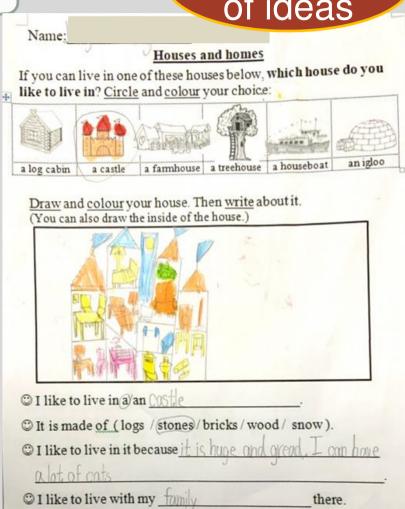
© If I live in this house, I will play snow in sign cost le

(What will you do there?)

Mini book-report:

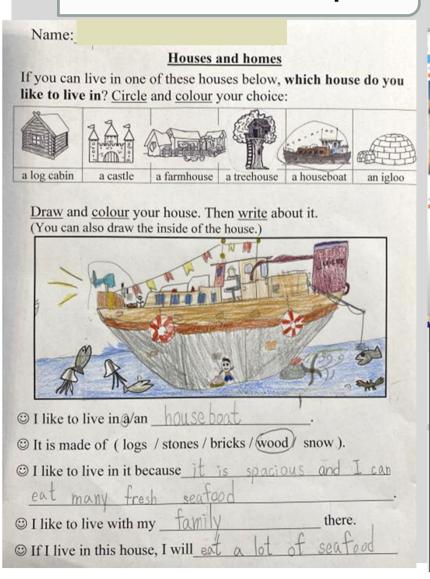
sharing of ideas

Name:			th	-1	
	Houses:	and homes	1/	ebruary.20	
If you can	live in one of these hou	ises below,	which hous	e do you	
	e in? Circle and colour				
a log cabin	a castle a farmhouse	a treehouse	a houseboat	an igloo	
	nd colour your house. The also draw the inside of the		out it.		
© I like to	live in a/an _ cost	е			
⊕ It is ma	de of (logs /stones/ b	oricks / woo	d / snow).		
7 -	live in it because it	is very	1	<u> </u>	
② I like to	live with my fam!	ly 1	there	÷.,	
⊕ If I live	in this house, I will ru	harou	ndoan	nd	
do	x lot of run				
(What will you do there?)					



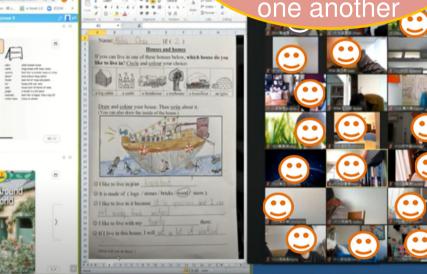
TI I live in this house, I will invite my friends to my castle

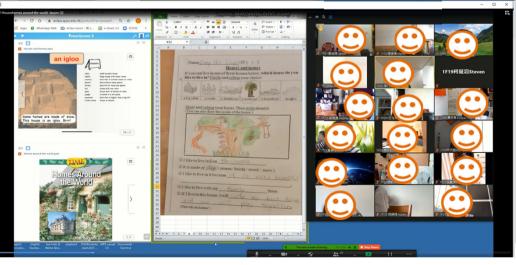
Mini book-report:

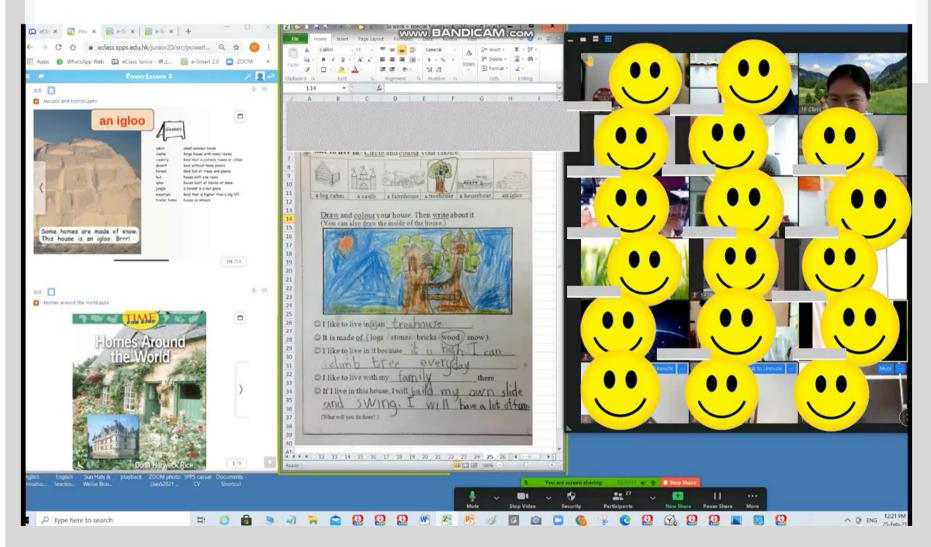


# sharing of ideas

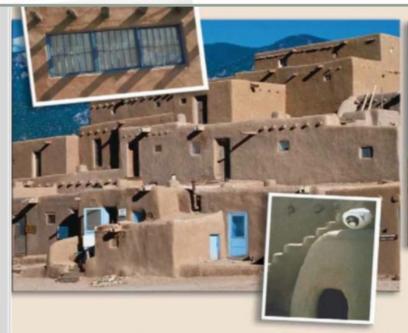
Speaking task: Ss learn from one another







- Discussion of the books + choices of house
- Value education ("to love our home and family" and "regardless of the size of our house/home, a house/home is a good one if it is full of love")



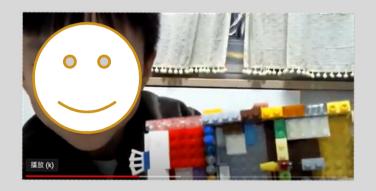
This home may look like a castle, but it is not. It is like an apartment building. It is made of adobe, a kind of clay.



These homes may be small and simple, but the families who live here do not think so. They think their huts are like castles.

The place where a family lives and loves feels just like a castle to them.

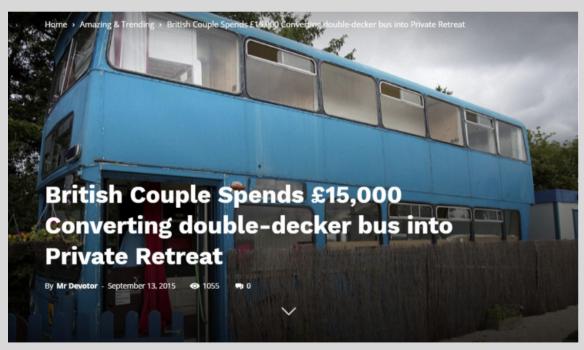
A little boy shared his Lego houseboat



- Introduction of more choices of houses
- Attitude: "live out your dreams"

#### **Bus house**

https://www.charismaticplanet.com/british-couple-spends-15000-converting-double-decker-bus-into-private-retreat/



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miawvAig7zE

Amazing Animals Widening horizons

# Amazing Animals

Primary 2

**Amazing Animals** 

Vocabulary: Wild animals

Language Focus: Modal verbs: can/ cannot

Simple Present Tense

Reading skills: Re-tell stories

Text types: Stories & Fables

Task: Writing an information report

Rationale: To help students make connections between the reading texts across various KLAs and their life experiences, prior knowledge and the world around them.

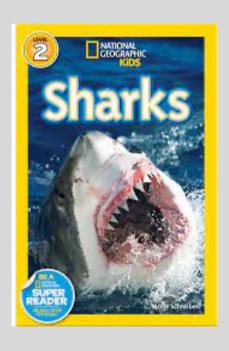
# Amazing Animals – Mini Task

 Students were guided to research an animal and produce a riddle to expand their knowledge in the natural world through reading across the curriculum.

### Values & Aims:

- To enable students to gain knowledge of different areas and apply reading skills and strategies to retrieve different types of content knowledge
- To help students extend their horizons, construct knowledge, enhance their creativity and develop positive values

# Amazing Animals – Non-fiction Multi-modal learning resources



illip	about things that are true
*To learn	s your turn to write a riddle! Refer to the useful vocabulary on resent tense to write about things that are true.  I more about animals, you can go to the following websites.  National Geography Websites.
	National Geographic Kids
https://w	The contract
	https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos/amazing-animals.
1. They	live in the deep sea
1. They 2. They	live in the <u>deep</u> sea
2. They	eat <u>meat</u>
2. They 3. They	do not eat <u>grass</u>
2. They 3. They 4. They	eat <u>meat</u>
2. They 3. They 4. They 5. They	do not eatgrass can swim out speed of eight to nineteen kilometres per h
2. They 3. They 4. They 5. They 6. They	do not eatgrass can swim out speed of eight to nineteen kilometres per h

Students are passionate about reading non-fiction books which suit their levels and interests on the online reading platform.

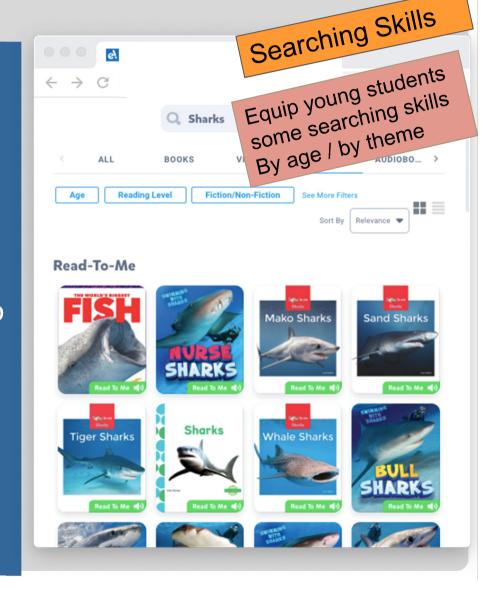
Information Literacy

How to search the right book on an online reading

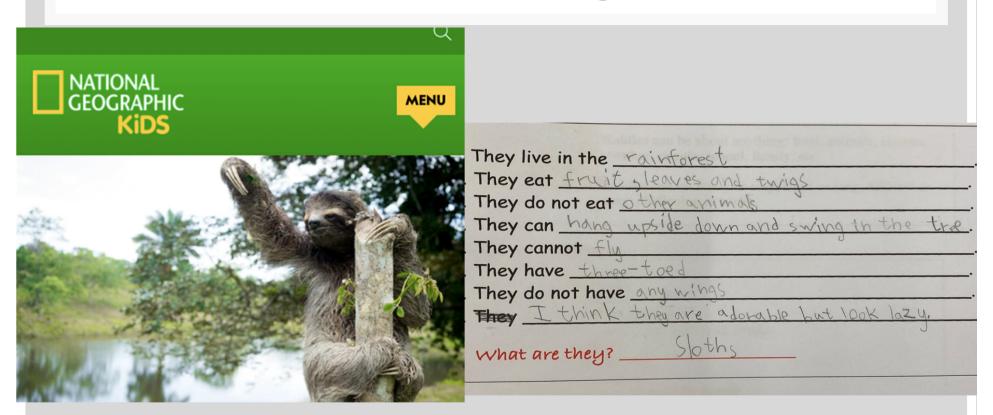
platform?

1. Type 'Animals'

- 2 Click 'Read-To-Me'.
- 3. Find 5-6/6-7 years old if you want to read something easy.
- 4 Find 7-9 years old if you want to read something more challenging.
- 5.Click 'Play'
- 6. Find the book called 'Sharks'



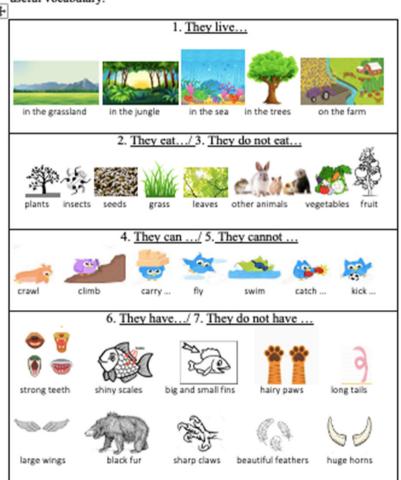
# Amazing Animals – Non-fiction Multi-modal learning resources



Besides, they find the videos on the website of **National Geographic Kids** inspiring and informative.

# Model Writing (Riddles)

Before writing a riddle about a kind of animals, let's revise some of the useful vocabulary.



#### Example of a Riddle:

- 1. They live in the jungle.
- 2. They eat grass and fruit.
- 3. They do not eat other animals.
- 4. They can carry heavy things with their trunks.
- 5. They cannot jump.
- 6. They have big floppy ears.
- 7. They do not have wings.
- 8. I think they are amazing!

What are they? (Turn the page upside down to check your answer.)



# Model Writing (Information Report)

You are going to write an information report about a special animal. Look at the following sample for more ideas.



An Information Report | An information report tells facts. Facts are always true. A fact: Ostriches are the largest birds in the world. They can grow to 2.7 m tall!

Scan the QR code to learn the facts about them.



#### How to Plan an Information Report about Ostriches:

Paragraph 1: Where do they live? What do they eat?	They live in the grassland. They eat plants and insects.
Paragraph 2: What colour are they? What do they look like?	They are black, white and pink. They have big eyes. Their eyes are bigger than their brains. They only have two toes but their toes are strong.
Paragraph 3: What can they do? What can they not do?	They are fast runners. They can run 40 miles per hour. They are birds but they cannot fly.

#### Sample Writing



#### About Ostriches

P.4

Ostriches live in the grassland. They eat plants and insects.

Ostriches are amazing animals. They are black, white and pink. They have big eyes. Their eyes are bigger than their brains. They only have two toes but their toes are strong.

They are fast runners. They can run 40 miles per hour. They are birds but they cannot fly.



#### Drafting

Animals are really amazing creatures. You can find out the most interesting facts about animals from the following video series.

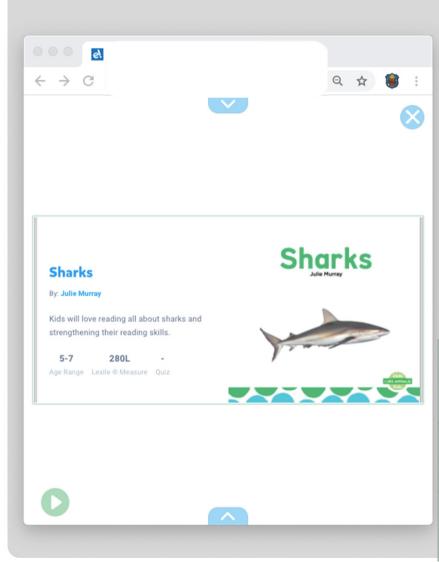
# Amazing Animals (National Geographic Kids) https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos/amazing-animals/

After you find the facts, draft your writing by answering the questions below. Please refer to the vocabulary on P.2 (Items 1-7) and the sample writing on P.4.

Paragraph 1: Where do they live?	They live
What do they eat?	They eat
Paragraph 2: What colour are they?	They are
What do they look like?	They have
	·
Paragraph 3: What can they do?	They can
What can they not do?	They cannot

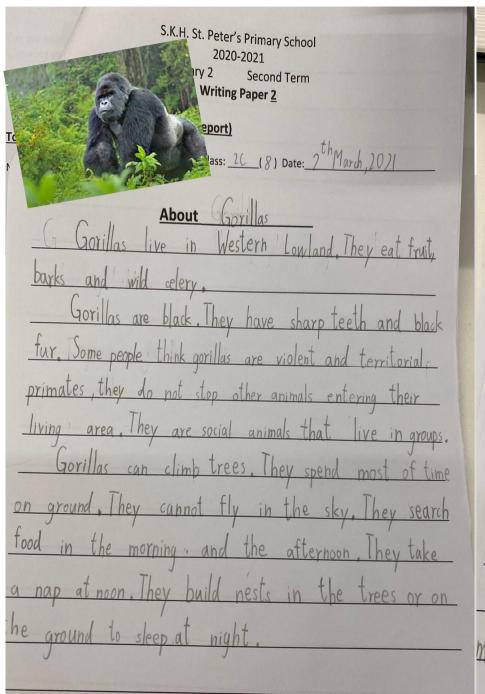
# Information Literacy

## Finding Facts about Sharks

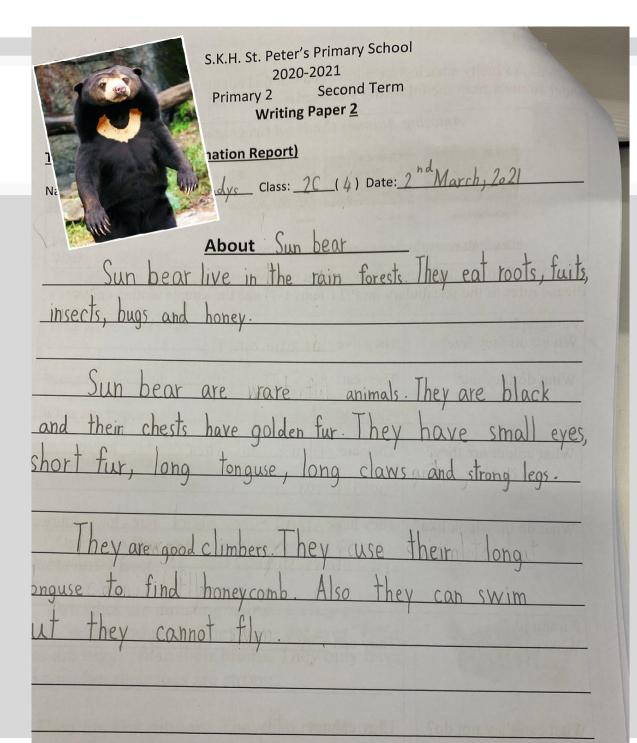


- have fins. They help them swim
- in the ocean.
- use gins to breathe.
- have sharp teeth. They grab and rip prey with them.
- can swim fast.
- eat many things. Some eat smaller fish. Others eat crabs or seals.

Paragraph 1: Where do they live?	They live
What do they eat?	They eat
Paragraph 2:	
What colour are they?	They are
What do they look like?	They have
Paragraph 3:	
What can they do?	They can
What can they not do?	They cannot



S.K.H. St. Peter's Primary School 2020-2021 Second Term per 2 \_(7) Date: 2nd March, 2021 About Sharks live in the deep sea. They eat meat and Sharks are horrible animal. They are grey have strong and sharp tooth. Their fins and bodies big. They have seventeen centimeres to twelve metres in length. They are fast swimmer. They can swim at speed of eight to nineteen kilometres per hour. They cannot craw on the beach, They cannot I think the sharks are scary because they



# **About Wolf Eel**



What does 'empowerment' mean to me in the ELT context?

P. 3

# Green Christmas

Protecting our environment

## Lesson Overview - Green Christmas

Class: P. 3

Topic: Environment/Recycling and Festivals - revision before

Christmas

#### Values & Aims:

√To revise units 4 and 5 (vocabulary and the sentence pattern 'plan to')

To enrich students' knowledge of the topics by reading multimodal authentic texts (a video and some pictures)

√To allow students to critically engage in exploring the integrated issue (Christmas <> Environment) → Empowerment

# 1. Think Critically Challenge textbook knowledge

 The textbook mentions that wrapping paper should be put in the blue recycling bin (for paper) after use. Is that really true?

## Can you really recycle wrapping paper?

Think about these questions when watching the video:

- 1. Can you recycle wrapping paper?
- 2. What cannot be recycled?
- 3. What should you do after using wrapping paper?

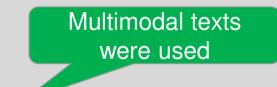
## 2. Connect with the Community Use of authentic materials

- Show figures and examples from the US
- Set the scene of the lesson

## 2. Connect with the Community Use of authentic materials

Can you recycle wrapping paper?

No, this is because there is glitter, metallic foil or plastic pieces. We cannot recycle wrapping paper.







#### What can we do to have a 'green' Christmas?



use recyclable paper to wrap presents



reuse wrapping paper



How would you celebrate a 'green' Christmas?

#### Some interesting 'green' presents



Real world examples



Lego made from sugar cane

Christmas seed cards

#### 1. Make your own Christmas tree







Go green during Christmas!

#### 2. Make your green advent calendar

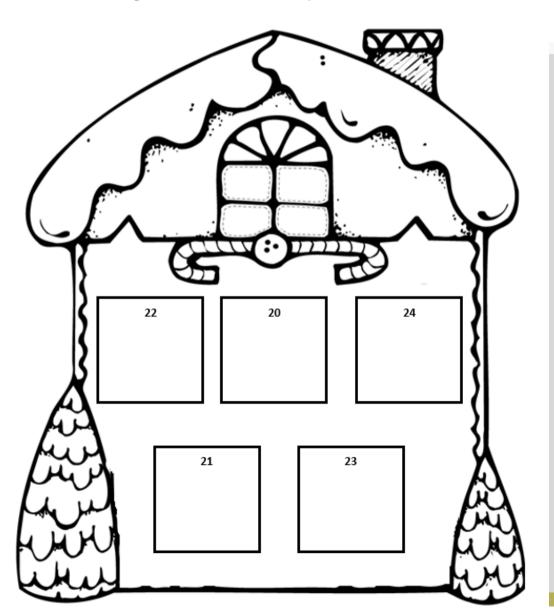
An advent calendar is a special calendar used to count the days before Christmas (24 days). Each day in December, you open one door. Behind those doors, you can find little presents.



#### My·Green·Advent·Calendar

Name:  $3D \cdot (\cdots)$ 

 $In \cdot each \cdot box, \cdot use \cdot one \cdot sentence \cdot ('l \cdot plan \cdot to ...') \cdot to \cdot describe \cdot what \cdot you \cdot plan \cdot to \cdot do \cdot that \cdot day to \cdot celebrate \cdot a \cdot green \cdot Christmas \cdot Feel \cdot free \cdot to \cdot add \cdot photos \cdot and \cdot colours!$ 



### 4. Relate to personal experiences Evaluating their own practices



What should you do after using wrapping pape

We should throw used wrapping paper in the rubbish bin.

Would you still want to use wrapping paper to wrap presents? Why or why not?



### 4. Relate to personal experiences Evaluating their own practices

What should you do after using wrapping paper?

We should throw used wrapping paper in the rubbish bin.

Would you still want to use wrapping paper to wrap presents? Why or why not?

#### Yes:

- Good-looking
- Colourful
- Festive

#### No:

- Not good to the environment
- Expensive

# Shaping Students' Practices A student's work

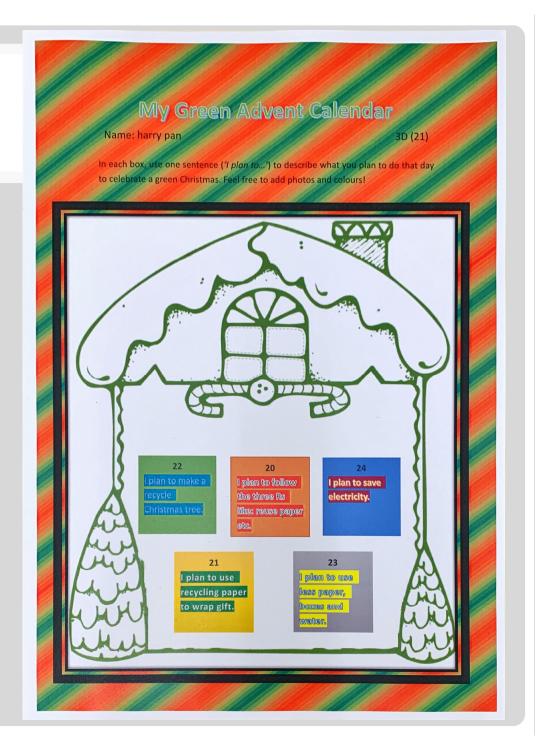
This student used recyclable materials to make a green Christmas tree at home.



# Shaping Students' Practices A student's work

This student used the MS Word skills from IT lessons to create this green advent calendar at home.





#### What does 'empowerment' mean to me?

#### **ELT Context**

#### Think critically

- Challenge textbook content
- Ask 'Why'

Empowerment

### Connect with the community

 Use of authentic materials

bring positive changes to

Relate to personal experiences

- Reflection
- Shaping their social practices

#### Be creative

- Use of multimodal texts
- Assessment

#### Empowerment in the ELT Context

- Pedagogical implications Give students autonomy
  - Choose what they want to work on → creativity
  - Reflect on their own practices → make positive changes to them and the community
- ELT implications
  - Equip students with the English language → a tool to access multimodal texts online
  - Interdisciplinary learning opportunities (e.g. with General Studies) → facilitate RaC and values education (e.g. environmental justice)

attitude

Ultimately, we want to nurture our students to become **informed** and responsible citizens.

Values &

P. 5

#### Matilda

Connecting RaC to Life & Moral Issues

#### Connecting RaC to Life & Moral Issues

- Teachers were encouraged to extend ideas beyond texts to discuss about life and moral issues when they taught the students.
- To teachers, improving both reading abilities and personal qualities & moral characters are important for young primary students. ROALD DANK

Roald Dahl's Matilda

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
THE LION, WITCH & THE WARDROBE



### More value education for youngsters

The story plot, setting, dialogue and conflicts inside the stories are interesting. Not only do they speak to students' interests, concerns and social issues, but also contain some universal themes like Parenting, themes like Parenting, Friendship, Integrity, Good vs Evil etc., which can be integrated into everyday school-based curriculum

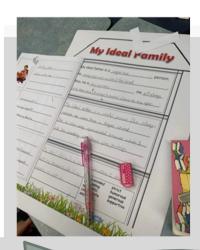
We wish to impart more values and moral education to our youngsters.

This is a good opportunity for primary students to think and to analyze the family characters in the story and the theme on parenting & being a genius.

### Matilda - My Ideal parents

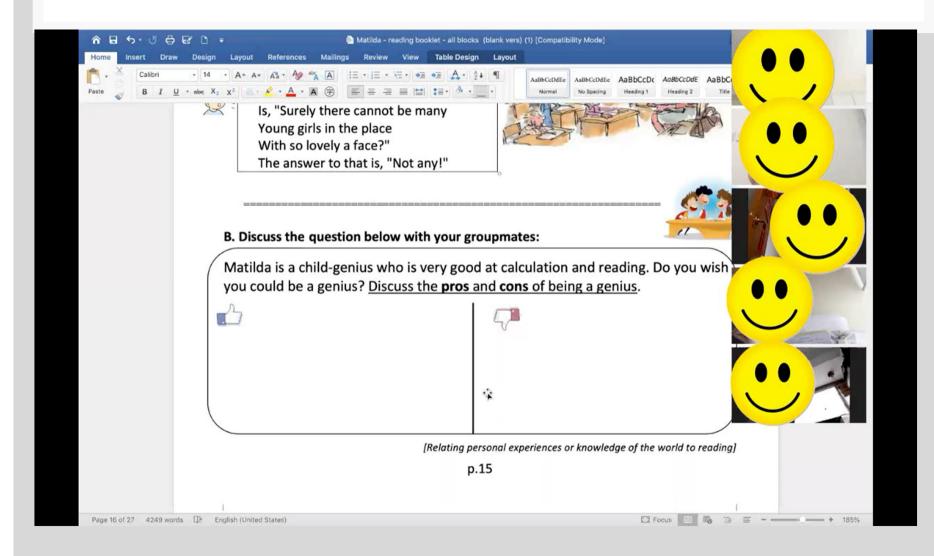


- Teacher asked students' views on 'Ideal family' during the course on teaching.
- Questions were explored: Is family important? Why or why not? What's your ideal parent? Is revenge necessary? Why or why not? Is it possible for a child to make a big difference?

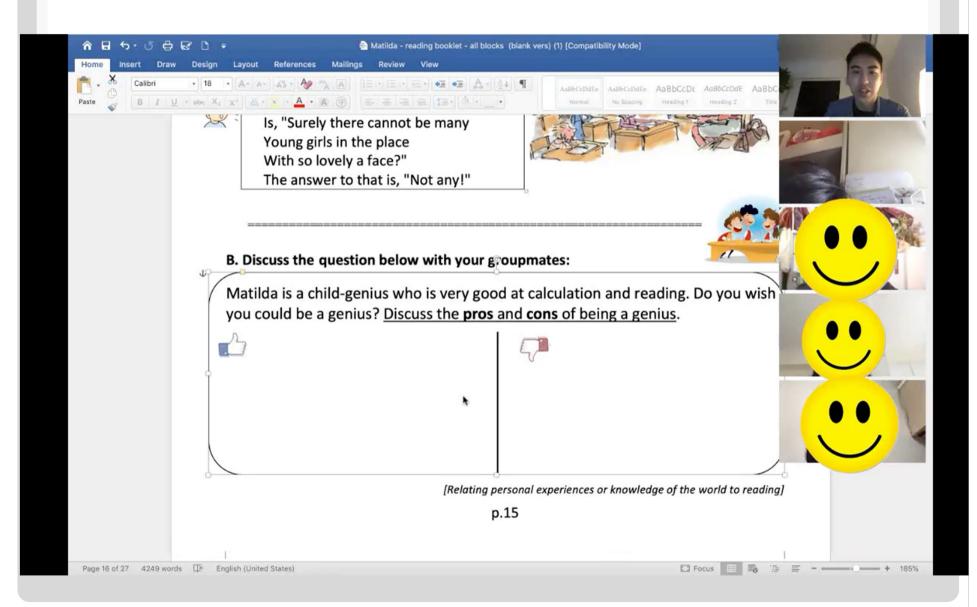


A student expressed that he would like to have a careful mother. This was because she could remind him when there was danger around. And, she would be open-minded so that when he asked her for something, she always gave permission.

#### Matilda – Pros & Cons of being a GENIUS



#### Matilda – Pros & Cons of being a GENIUS



#### Figurative Language features



a metaphor: the

Matilda D. Reading skills 1. Onomatopoeia: Onomatopoeia A word that imitates the sound it represents. Good writers can use sound words to make their writing more interesting! e.g. 1: Woosh! I flew down the hill on my sled. e.g. 2: A cat meowed. I petted her and she purred. Circle the onomatopoeia word in each of the sentences below: a. 'Enter!' boomed the deep and dangerous voice of Miss Trunchbull. b. Squashing a bad girl is like squashing a bluebottle. c. 'So she's learnt a few tables by hear, has she?' Miss Trunchbull barked. d. 'Hal' snorted Miss Trunchbull.

Figurative language could be quite an engaging aspect of an English lesson. By nature, it is fun and playful. It can be into the units and woven modules throughout the year to students aet the ensure repetitions and practices they need. Stories are the perfect opportunity to focus on more complex figurative language.

[Use of anomatopoeis]

e. You're darn right it's up to me!' Miss Trunchbull bellowed.

#### The Chronicles of Narnia



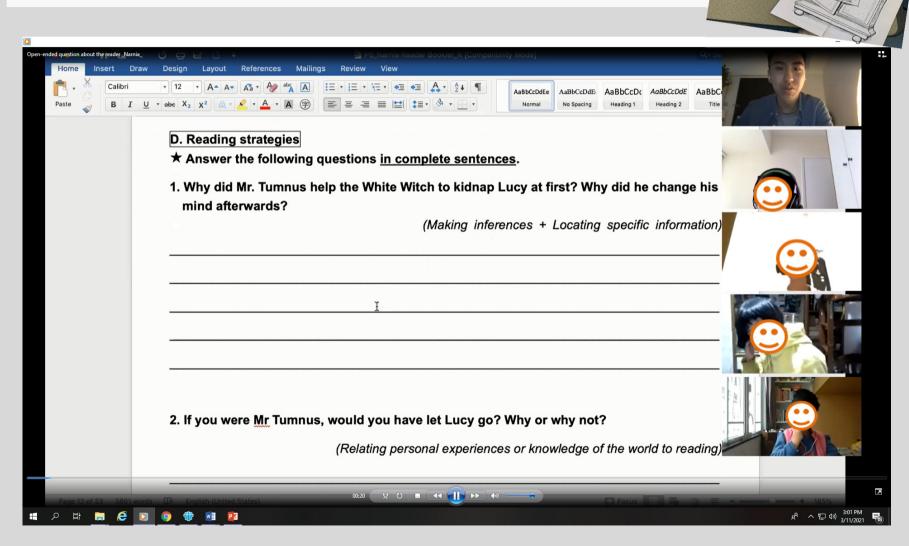
P. 6

• The author C.S. Lewis discusses the themes of good vs. evil, betrayal and forgiveness, courage, transformation, the natural world, and the magic in The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.



These are social and moral issues happen every day in students' lives. Moral principles such as honesty and integrity, forgiveness, courage, and self-sacrifice are represented by various characters, human and animal, in the story.

# The Chronicles of Narnia – Making Life decisions



### Nurturing thinking skills

- good and well-tiered questions that could stimulate students' thinking, widen their perspectives, reduce their learning hurdles and misconceptions
- Instead of providing generic feedback, the feedback provided was detailed e.g. on the interactions amongst the students, what was the appropriate response from teachers, how to further elaborate on students' answers etc.

## Online Writing – Use technology to support students' learning

Task: You are Tom. You played football with your brother and had an accident last week. Based on the pictures below, write what happened in no less than 80 words. You have to <u>use</u> the strategy 'Show, not Tell'. Use a bracket to highlight that part.

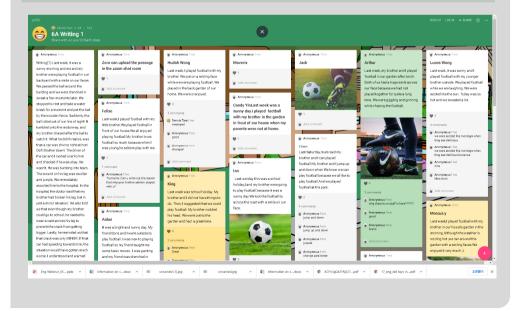
Tips:

Step 1. Think of the feelings of the character at that moment

Step 2. Choose from the above table for the correct description/phrases



Students were eager to share and they learnt some great phrases or sentence structures from the more able students. Teachers could give constructive feedback and discussed how each paragraph could be improved with the whole class.



### Online Writing – Use technology to support students' learning

#### padlet.com

#### **Felise**

Last week, I played football with my little brother. We played football in front of our house. We all enjoyed playing football.My brother loves football so much because when I was young,he seldom play with me.



1 comment



Anonymous 1mo

Tramaine: Can u write out the reason that why your brother seldom played

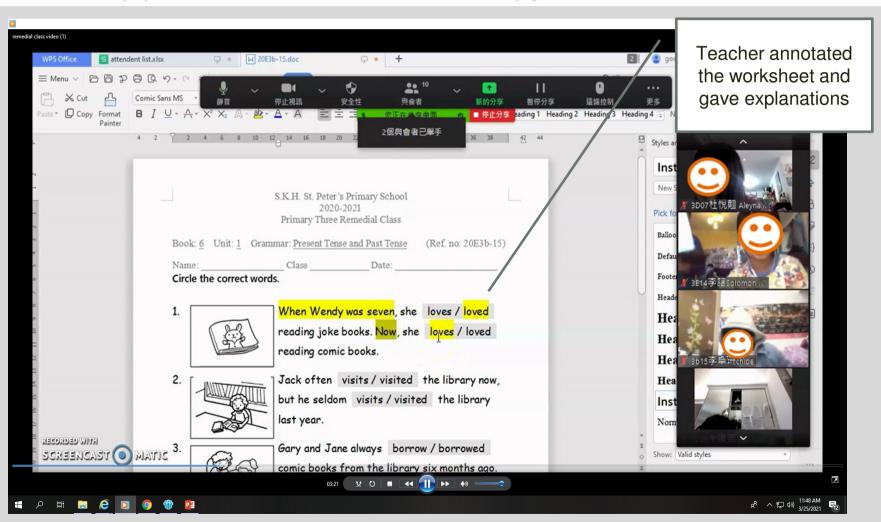
Students provided feedback to each other on the writing platform

> It's a process where **students** review other students' work and provide feedback on them. This is **important** because peer feedback helps students develop critical thinking skills and make evaluative judgement based on the assignment criteria.

### Supporting the Less Able

Learning of the correct form of verbs:

Teachers supported students by guiding them to highlight the contextual cues during Zoom classes – Teach them to pay attention to those cues in order to accurately get the answers.



#### **Developing Online School lives**

- Different themes were also organised to help students
  develop their "online school lives", such as a live RaC Reading Across the Curriculum session talking about teacher
  feedback & teacher-student interaction were apparent in
  the Zoom classes, and this gave students valuable insight into
  their knowledge and understanding, provided guidance on
  how to improve, and motivation to learn and grow.
- Teachers tried to ask a variety of higher-order thinking questions to cater for students' needs and interests. These questions could stimulate students' thinking and allowed them to have a deeper understanding on the topic.

### **Empowering our students**

- We hope students can get more exposure to the multimodal texts around them, take sometime off their textbooks, and gradually learn deeper with the four language skills.
- To cater for learners' diversity, students' needs and interests, teachers should continue to ask a variety of questions and elicit responses from students so that they will be engaged in lessons.
- More activities can be done:
- Collaborative small group work / Virtual Fieldtrips/Roleplaying/Presentation
- It is important to have a consistent school policy towards the quality and quantity of online learning and teaching.

### **Empowering our students**

- Teachers' continuous reflections on our own teaching practice is important
- Always be positive about what technology has brought us

From surviving to thriving!

For professional sharing, please contact:

Fung Ho Kwan, Jeanda School-based Curriculum Development (Primary) Section, EDB at

jeandafung@edb.gov.hk

Tel: 21584924

THANK YOU