

# Unlocking the Story

## Key Stage 2-3



### Developing a story from the reconstruction drawings

This follows on naturally from the previous activity and is an ideal opportunity for creative writing or dance & drama or both.

What I like about this opportunity is the fact that having become so involved with the reconstruction drawing pupils have developed a real identity with their work and any resulting story will flow naturally in whatever form you or they wish to extend it.



This is illustrated by the work of two pupils in a small primary school who had chosen a portion of a plate which, although fairly plain, was decorated around the rim with a heavy chain link pattern. This was developed into a beautiful piece of dance work involving the whole class in which the chain, broken as the plate broke, is desperately searching for the missing links to make itself and the plate whole again. In terms of dance/drama this provides the chance to explore emotions such as pain, desperation and ultimate joy and relief. The

chance to develop group work and co-operation through this stimulus are just as good.



In another example a bird isolated on a single sherd goes searching for the others in the flock. Hints of foliage on the sherd led the pupil to include various bushes and trees on the completed reconstruction. Again, through dance drama or individual stories there is scope for exploring a whole range of descriptions and emotions.



Some pieces, such as the dragon in the photograph above, will offer much more straightforward, although in my view less challenging, opportunities but the fantastic colours used in the reconstruction offer their own possibilities. Is this a dragon under some kind of spell which makes it different or special? How does the dragon deal with this? Obvious links here to inclusion, discrimination etc and I seem to remember an early 'Elmer the Elephant' story following the same theme as, of course does the 'Ugly Duckling'

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