

A World of Fun for Everyone

Captured in the pages of a book



**Richard O'Neill
Michelle Russell**

future4fairgrounds & 1TcA.com



A shared heritage of storytelling

Richard O'Neill and Michelle Russell have teamed up to create a collection of stories.

As storytellers, with a shared heritage of travelling, they bring their stories alive through the pages of a book, in a classroom and through the virtual highways.

Celebrating cultures in a world that is diverse, the six lady Showmen, who created future4fairgrounds, are working with Richard and Michelle to help schools and educators support their learners to share a greater understanding of the Showman community.

Finding a voice for a thought that is ready to be shared with the world, Raj Kumari-Byford entrusted Richard and Michelle to write & illustrate One Thought. A book that is unique in sharing a universal message, that will inspire a community based edition, that will support learners to develop a wide range of skills.

Connecting through a Collaboration of Kindness

A group of people coming together, through the adversity of a pandemic.

Working together to celebrate diversity and similarity: empowering a community who are at the heart of everything they do.

The fundamental threads of community and connection, harnessed with a kindness that brings communities of the world together.

In many ways, the challenges that were identified by f4f and 1TcA during the pandemic enabled both groups to reflect on what was needed and the vision to dream big; having a positive impact within their own community and beyond.

f4f, are sharing an understanding of an industry that has worked together with communities throughout the UK and beyond.

1TcA, are providing funds and support to empower communities around the world to protect, provide and prosper.

ToTtT, are developing resources to enhance and strengthen the skills for lifelong learning

Each group playing their part to celebrate their community; respecting the work of our ancestors in days gone by, supporting the role of our communities of today, and protecting the future generations.



Richard O'Neill &
Michelle Russell

THE STORY THAT INSPIRED A COLLABORATION AND CELEBRATION

The Show Must Go On

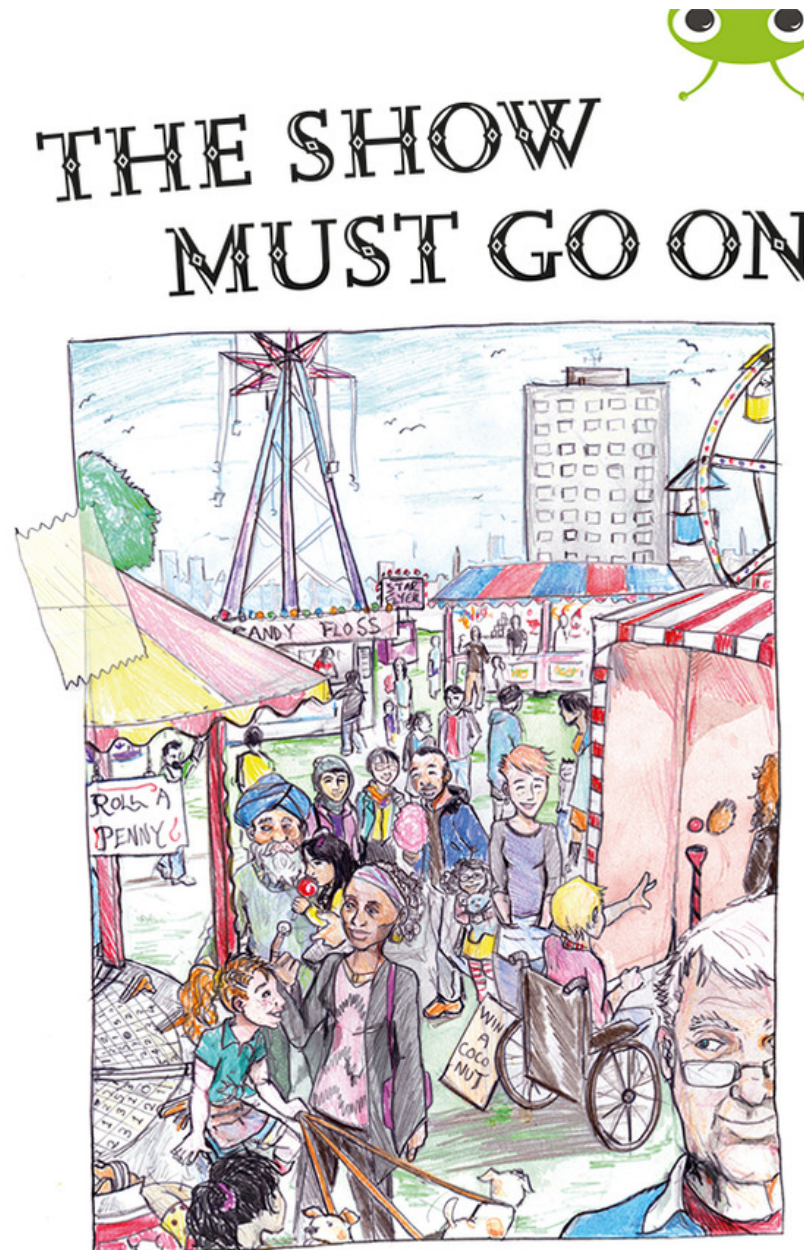
'Nestled quietly by the railway and the river, in the Showman's Yard, a treasure trove can be found ... but only by those who really look, and really listen.'

Pearson's contacted Richard to write a story based on a Travelling Showman's community.

Richard then asked Michelle to co-write the story, drawing on her family heritage and work with Fairground Reminiscence.

Aware that the community of Showmen was commonly misunderstood, a story was created to share a snapshot of a strong family bond where generations work together to protect and share their traditions.

"I would recommend this as a book that brings show people and their lifestyle alive". Valerie Moody (MBE), National Education Liason Officer for the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.



A reflective insight into the heritage giving a positive outlook on the Showmen and fairground community: It provides a vision of their purpose, skills and contribution to society. It talks about their active part in society and how their travelling and entertaining is a valuable part of the world we live in today.

As important it is for children within the Showman community to have a book that is representative of their way of life, it is important that all children should also have the opportunity to learn about the Showman community.

Throughout history, the importance of Showmen has been recognised by monarchs, who provided protection of some fairs with a Royal Charter.

2020 & 2021 witnessed many Charter Fairs across the UK cancelled and the resilience of Showmen in protecting the future fairs.

Read All About It

What people are saying.....



Hi Jasmine here from the imagination workers I was so happy to receive my very own copy of the book it was amazing to read it, I was wishing that we all still lived and travelled with the fair, it sounds so exciting and I loved reading the book, my favourite drawing is of the horse reminiscence page 8.

Hi I'm Jodie from the imagination workers and I also loved reading the book The Show Must Go On, I enjoyed the pictures and the story, my favourite part was the candyfloss, toffee apples and the free rides. I cant wait to share this book with all of my school friends and tell them all some of my family's history, being travelling showmen. X



Bug Club

The Show Must Go On

ISBN: 9781292372419

Format: Paperback

Pagination: 48 pages



The Show Must Go On joins Pearson's Bug Club Independent Lime Plus books which give high attaining children, age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction stories which help them to work at a greater depth, and allow you to measure their reading progress.

Pearson is leading the way to ensure that the Showman community is represented in a positive way. By involving members of the community to create it, a resource has been crafted that opens the door to many strands of learning, on many different levels.

Imagine a book that opens up the door to a community that is intricately embedded within a larger community. Imagine the same book being read out loud in the Early Years and then post16 students exploring the same book to identify key responsibilities of the community they belong to. The Show Must Go On is a book that is a qualitative representation of the Showman community and a springboard to find out more.

Outlined in this booklet are suggested learning activities, that give an example of how The Show Must Go On can be used.....**it's the beginning of a journey that you are invited to join.**

Through the exciting introduction of World Fun Fair Month, September 2021, it would be amazing if every school throughout the UK had access to their own copy of The Show Must Go On.

A Journey of Discovery

A timeline that touches so many eras. Even the 1983 stamps that were issued by Royal Mail are now immortalised in history: The presentation pack itself notes the earliest record of a fair, the purpose of trading and the illustrative samples of early fairground rides and entertainment.



The Show Must Go On (chapter three) highlights the family business, which involves everyone.

Reflecting on feedback shared by Miss Pham, the class teacher, Mary Ann, recognises that she is learning transferable skills that can be used in school.

Many schools do already choose to support their students to help with Summer/Christmas fairs, while older pupils are often supported by the local community/businesses to develop their enterprise skills.

Both these experiences become more meaningful to the individual when they find out the history behind British Fairs and the importance of Showmen who helped to shape them.



Artful Ways

Art is such a therapeutic activity. An effective marketing tool used by many skilled Showmen to attract the customers.

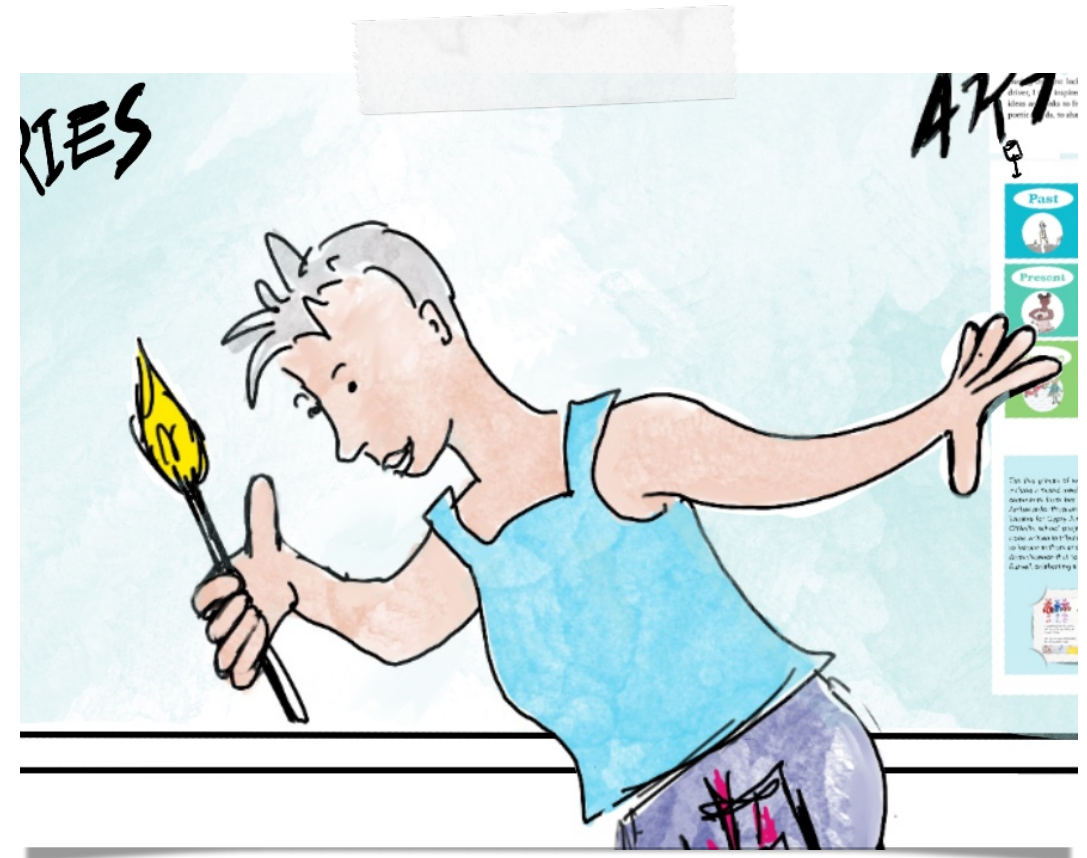
An art form that has been replicated by many permanent businesses that reside within the communities which travelling Showmen support.

The artwork and posters, themselves holding hidden clues to the target audience over the years. Exploring this concept opens the doors of finding out more about money, marketing and other business skills.

Linking back to reading & writing, exploring art, within the early years, provides a strong foundation to develop and refine the skills to communicate clearly with others.

The tradition of signwriting is synonymous with fairgrounds. A skill that is now often replaced through technology. The Show Must Go On were fortunate to feature an interview with Showman Robert Miller, who also painted the Fairground Reminiscence sign that toured the North East with Adam Russell Dance, another individual who works with the community.

Mitch Miller, the illustrator of The Show Must Go On, uses a signature style of dialectograms which was used to record the grounds of Showmen and other communities.



All Areas of the Curriculum

- * f4f, members of the Showman community, which is usually very private, recognise the importance of helping others to understand more about their way of life and the industry they have kept building from one generation to the next.
- * An industry where traditionally you learn from others
- * An industry and way of life that provides learning opportunities that link to all areas of the curriculum

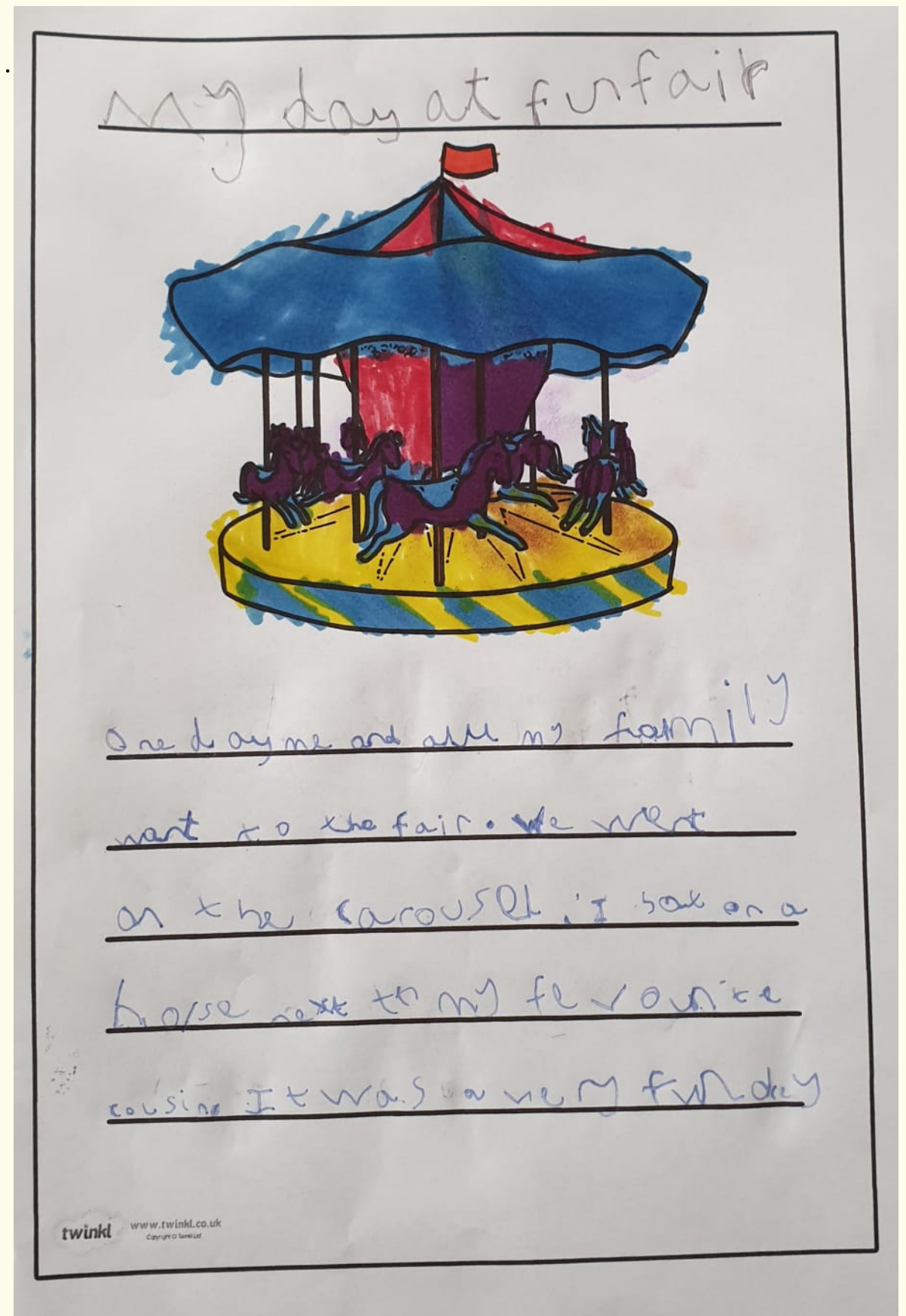
Building on the popular KS2 topic of fairgrounds, as shared by the Black Country Living Museum (www.blm.co.uk), as well as using fairgrounds to learn about mechanical systems they will have the opportunity to learn much more.

Introducing more resources, like *The Show Must Go On*, into schools will undoubtedly inspire more purposeful learning.

Through the World Fun Fair Month, everyone will have the opportunity to share their ideas, ensuring that a qualitative educational pack is produced.

The YouTube video *It's Not Fun It's Not Fair - A Showman documentary*, demonstrates the resilience of an industry whilst also providing another resource to help develop awareness.

It would be amazing for teachers and pupils to have access to both a book and video to help inspire their ideas.



Hear All About It

Learning through all the fun of the fair

Fairground Reminiscence identified a wide range of groups that engaged and benefited from focussing their learning through the subject of fairgrounds.



'Amazing – An experience of all the senses. Performers bring the fairground to life. Set is creative, capturing the essence of the fairground, building on the culture of a family fairground!'

Audience Member Late Shows sharing 2018

'When I started dancing I felt happy like I was on stage. My favourite part was the feathers and coconuts'

"It has enriched our curriculum topic perfectly, providing just the right amount of interest, challenge and engagement. The children and staff have had a great time and really enjoyed the sessions"

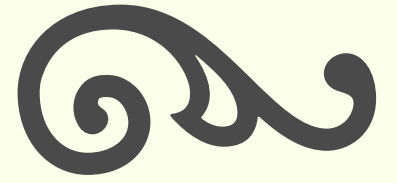
*Samantha Mason, Head Teacher
Linton First Primary School*

'Fun, Interactive, Multi-sensory. Loved your class, memories and the interactive games!'

*-Participant at Byker
Community Centre Workshop*



Stories to Inspire Learning



The Show Must Go On is rapidly gaining publicity around the UK and beyond - a lot of people have big dreams for this little book, which will have a big educational impact on what we can learn about the Showman Community.

Can you help make this dream come true?

**One thought changes all: the change can start
with you**

**Help us to celebrate our past, raise awareness
for the present and protect our future**

