

FREEDOM PROJECT

Year 2/3 have been selected to participate in the **Freedom project** as part of the **Kirklees Arts 4 All** initiative. The main aim of the project is to raise standards and pupil's self esteem in literacy using the creative arts as a vehicle. Using the permanent collection at Huddersfield Art Gallery as a source of inspiration, pupils will have the opportunity to work with a professional writer and visual artist as well as visit the gallery during the year.

WRITER'S VISIT

On the morning of 8th November, pupils had the opportunity to work alongside poet Rommi Smith. Initially children were involved in a brainstorming session on what freedom meant to them. Rommi then used poetry and paintings to explore the same concept with the children. The visit was a huge success and clearly enjoyed by all who participated in this first part of the project.

MORE ABOUT ROMMI SMITH

Rommi Smith is a freelance writer, qualified teacher, University lecturer and literature development consultant. She has held numerous writing residencies across the world and works with all kinds of groups in educational and non-traditional educational settings: in 2006 she was British Council Poet in Residence at California State University in Los Angeles. She has held three major residencies with the BBC, including BBC Artist in Residence for the Commonwealth Games. In 2007, Rommi is Parliamentary Writer in Residence, the first post of its kind in history. Her specific focus is the Parliamentary Act to abolish the Slave Trade.

Rommi worked for Kirklees Libraries, in West Yorkshire, for ten years, fundraising, project-managing and facilitating creative reading projects for all age groups, with special interest in reaching emergent readers and younger readers through innovative projects and ideas. A qualified teacher, Rommi specialised in teaching English to speakers of other languages. Rommi has worked as a reader development trainer for Opening the Book and works as a Project Consultant for The Reading Agency. Her work for TRA includes managing the hugely successful Children's Radio Reading Clubs' Project, a partnership with the BBC.

www.rommi-smith.co.uk