



# EmpathyLab

Read stories. Build empathy. Make a better world.

## Join our training day, 19 November 2019

### A whole school approach using stories to integrate empathy education into existing school priorities

Young people are growing up in a society with a major empathy deficit; hate crimes are at their highest level since records began and there are increasing concerns about the negative effects of social media. Increased empathy is good for society and vital for young people's life chances. 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 a first-step training day with EmpathyLab – we aim to build young people's empathy, literacy and social activism through a more systematic use of high-quality literature. Our strategy builds on scientific evidence showing the power of reading to build real-life empathy skills.

With 11 primary school partners we have spent the last three years testing new approaches. Our latest report (see [www.empathylab.uk/empathylab-school-trial](http://www.empathylab.uk/empathylab-school-trial)) shows the significant impact of our Empathy Explorers programme on school improvement and ethos; empathy skills and wellbeing; improvements in literacy, pro-social attitudes and behaviour.

We are now opening up the EmpathyLab to new partner schools.



*“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

## CPD training day, 19 November 2019, 10.00am-4.30pm, at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, Webber Street, London, SE1 8QW

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

**Aim:** to lay the foundations for schools’ empathy strategies and work towards a major celebration of Empathy Day

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

### You will learn about

- The different elements of empathy and its educational importance
- The research showing how books and book-talk can build empathy
- How schools are achieving school 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



[www.empathylab.uk](http://www.empathylab.uk)



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- 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

## AGENDA

### 9.30-10.00 Arrival, registration and book browsing

#### Welcome, introductions and context

#### 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
- What makes a book good for empathy work

#### Coffee

#### Empathy work in schools

- The educational importance of empathy: pioneer school case study
- Groups: the most important empathy links and aims in my school

#### Lunch and book browsing

#### Empathy, literacy and social action

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

#### Marketplace

#### Tea

#### Empathy Day in your school/library

- Planning and sharing

#### Round up Q&A; evaluation forms; goody bags

**Booking details:** Cost is £175 per delegate + £150 for second person. Members of the School Library Association are eligible for a 10% discount. To register your interest contact [syoung@spinney.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:syoung@spinney.cambs.sch.uk)



[www.empathylab.uk](http://www.empathylab.uk)



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*"I cannot recommend EmpathyLab highly enough. Since joining the Lab, we have integrated empathy education into our everyday classroom activities, and seen improvements in children's understanding and application of empathy, as well as their literacy skills and enjoyment of reading. We have been surprised by the high levels of parental interest and involvement."*

Tina Daniel, Executive Headteacher, Oaks Federation



*"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

*"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

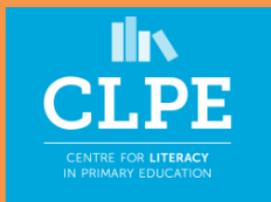
*In our empathy work, we're learning about the real world and we're all part of it. Like, everyone, not just us and the people we know. Some people in Yarmouth should treat the refugees kindly because, at the end of the day, we're all humans."*

Troy, Year 6

*"If 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

In partnership with...



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