OCM Education and Outreach
Project Journey Log

Summer Reading Challenge project
in partnership with Oxfordshire Library Services
In March 2014 OCM met John Piling from Oxfordshire Library Service at an Arts Award Supports event in Berkshire and tentatively discussed a few ideas for a joint project during the summer holidays.

Each summer the library take part in the Summer Reading Challenge which aims to get as many children and young people from the county to read as many books as possible.

Using this as a stimulus we brainstormed some potential ideas we could from.
We decided that we would support the Summer Reading Challenge by working alongside library volunteers to create an audio soundscape for selected books which we would perform at the library each week.

Our aim for the performances was that they would encourage and inspire more children and young people to take up the challenge!
Working with sound practitioner Kelly Smith, each week different library volunteers selected children’s books to work from as stimulus and used IPads and sound recorders to put together an audio soundscape to accompany their performances.

The readings took place at Witney Library and the stories included were:

• The Gruffolo

• Where the Wild things are

• Giraffes can’t dance
“Very well put together and entertaining, such a shame the turnout was poor (due to heavy rain) as lots of children I work with in primary school, would have loved it!”

“The 3 boys 18 months, 4 & 6 enjoyed it very much. The two older ones knew The Gruffalo very well. No negative comments – Very enjoyable. Suggestions – involve the older children with sound effects.”

“Fantastic idea.”

“My children enjoyed the reading, thank you.”

“Emily really enjoyed it! She loves to take part in songs/actions etc! Emily says “Amazing!” it was very good for children with learning disabilities as well as younger children. Thank you”
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Children enjoyed joining in although rap was quite hard to follow the story. Luckily it’s a story we read lots at home.

**Good fun and an unexpected surprise for a Saturday morning!**

Very good. Creates happy learning atmosphere. Would come again if we knew it was on. Came by chance. Very enjoyable needs advertising.

Edward says “The rapping was good. Could have put a teensy bit more effort into the singing and dancing.” Good choice of story.

Enjoyable and imaginative.
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• X3 Workshop sessions</td>
<td>• X8 young people received an Arts Award</td>
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<td>• X9 Performances</td>
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<td>• X3 Audio recordings available for streaming on OCM website and CDs at Witney Library.</td>
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This has been a very exciting project to work on. The young volunteers all commented positively on their experience of the project.

If we were to run a similar project in the future, we would look at how we can use books aimed at a teenage audience and organise reading evenings targeted at that age group.

We have recorded the audio for the performances and will provide Witney Library with a copy of the CD’s which they can pass on to parents of infants that use their services.