Inspired! ‘The Tree’ by Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

By Pamela Stewart

In this post, **Pamela Stewart** shares the submission by **Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire** for **Inspire: A Celebration of Children’s Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio’s Cupid and Psyche** by Year One and Two pupils in '**Owl Class**'.

This post shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the **Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge** and where science and Art can meet.



The Story of Cupid and Psyche Sellaio, Jacopo del; painter; Italian artist, 1441/2-1493

'The Tree' by Pupils in Owl Class



'The Tree' by the Owl Class, Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire

Introducing Cupid and Psyche



We spent a long time looking at and discussing the painting and what it might mean.

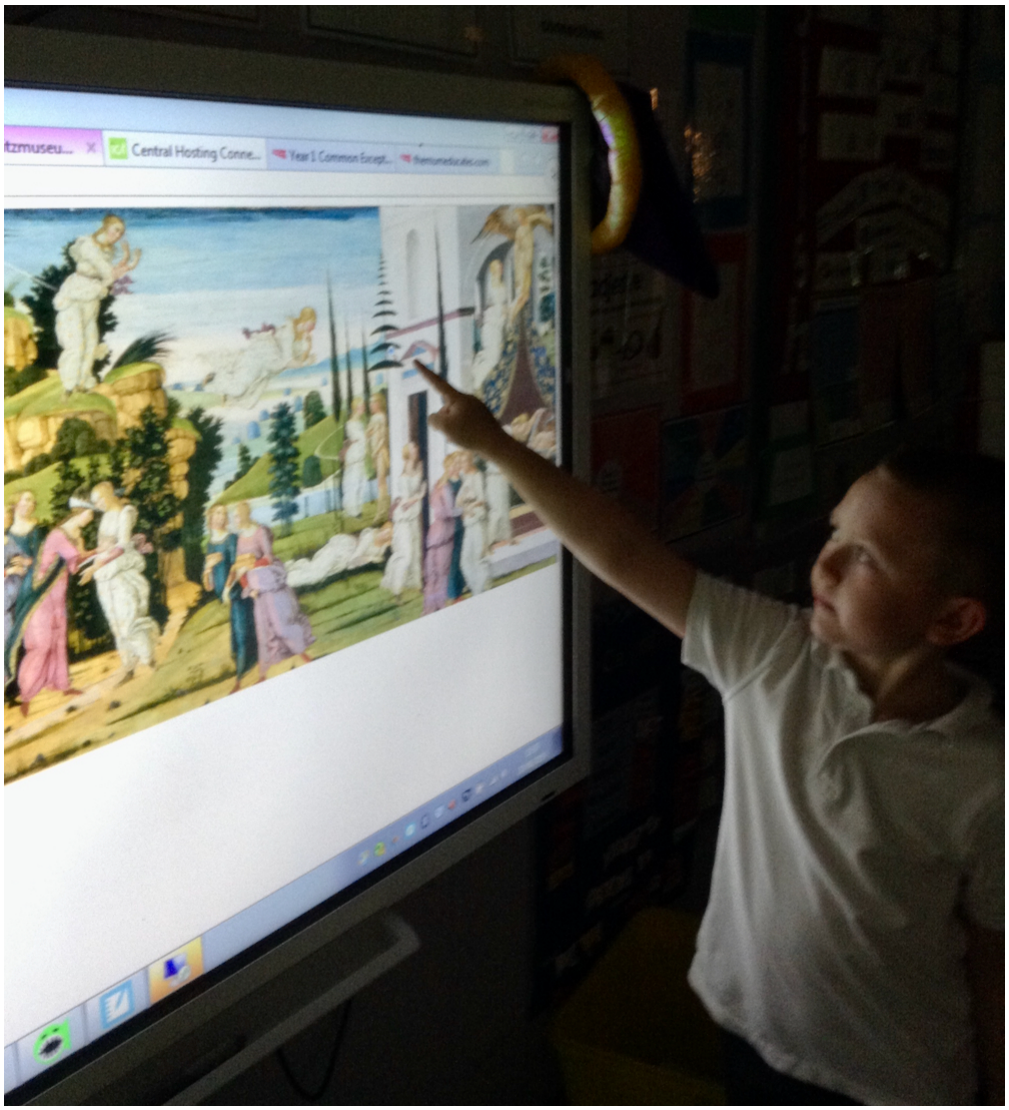
The story was told to us.
‘Tell us again!’ we said.



Every day for a number of weeks the story was retold. Poppy’s mum, Pippa, said that Poppy drew the story on the blackboard at home and retold it often!



We were particularly fascinated by the trees. ‘That tree looks funny,’ said Evie. ‘I like the shape of this tree, it looks like an umbrella,’ said Florence.



Let’s study trees and plants!

Linking across the curriculum during our Science week, we decided to ask Professor John Love to carry out an investigation with us on what colour of light plants thrive better in.



Looking through coloured film with Professor John Love.



We used seeds and placed them on wet pads in sealed Petri dishes.

We then placed the seeds into different coloured bags – clear, blue, green, red and in tin foil (no light).



After a few days we observed which seeds looked the healthiest.



The seedlings after five days!

It was the ones in the red and blue bag that grew best!

We learned lots of facts about trees!



Having been inspired by the painting, we looked at books on trees.



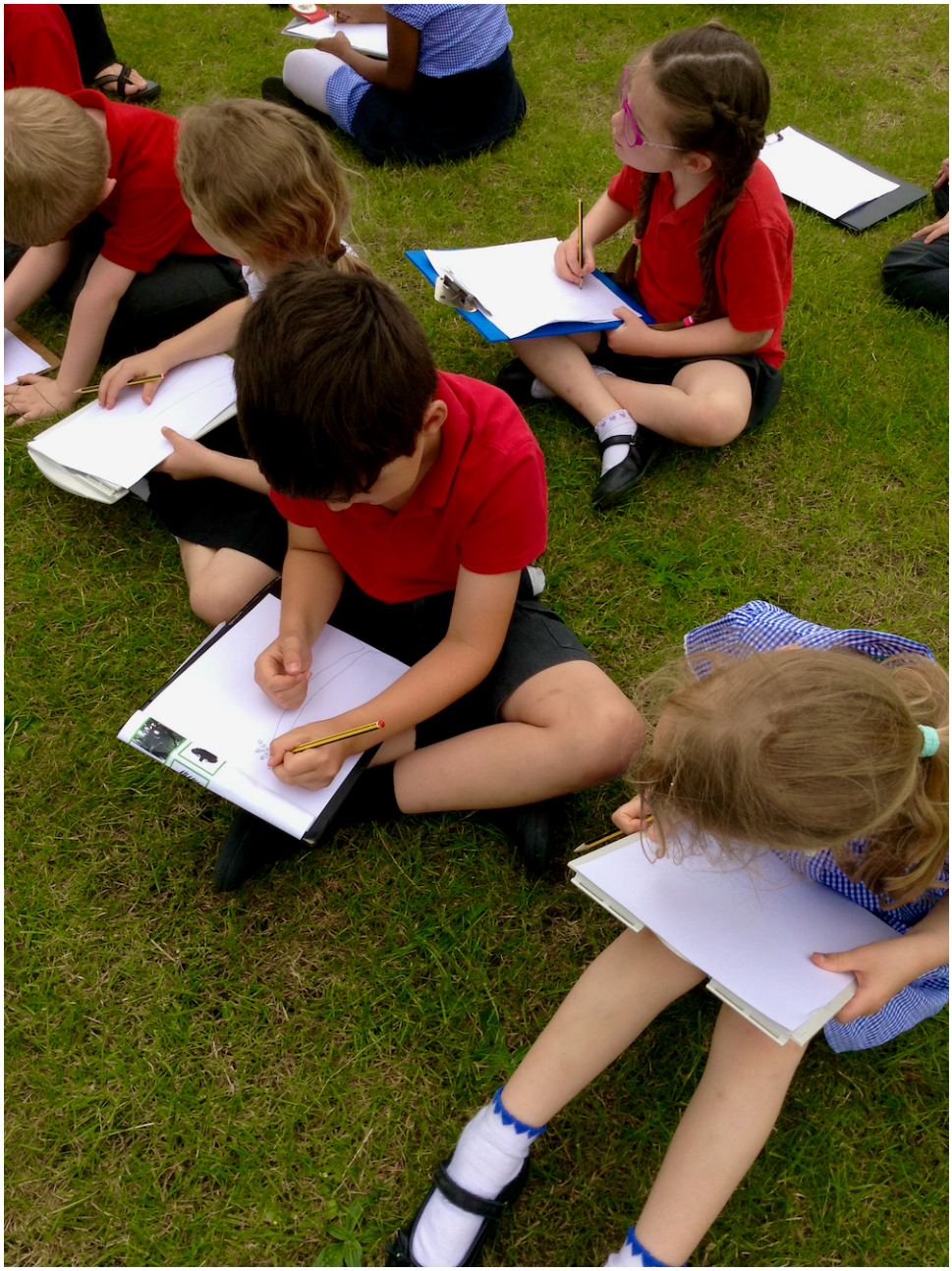
We went outside to look at trees and their leaves.



Using fact sheets, which had pictures of trees and their leaves, we identified lots of trees in and around our school.



There is a silver birch behind us!



We looked at and drew trees!



With the leaves we found, we produced still life pictures using pastels.







Now for the finale and our class tree…

We had learned about the Renaissance techniques of Jacopo del Sellaio and wanted to try them out ourselves.

Using poster paints, egg and wine (we had read that the wine makes the egg smell nicer!) we produced colourful leaves.

The eggs were supplied by one of our mums, Martina!



I love using egg and wine!







We mixed powder paint with egg and wine!


West Suffolk





Gilding our leaves



We used gold leaf to gild our leaves.



We found it very tricky and hot (we had to have all the windows and doors closed because, even with a gentle breeze, it was difficult to apply the gold to our leaves!).



'The Tree' by Owl Class









‘I loved learning about old pictures and how they were painted,’ said Jack.
‘It was such fun and I really liked painting with egg and wine!’ said Arianna.
‘Using the gold leaf was really tricky but it made our tree look really special,’ said Emily.
‘I hope we win!’ exclaimed Owl class!

Go back to Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche



Inspire *– December 2019 to March 2020*, was an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrated creativity in Cambridgeshire schools. It championed the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for all children and young people.

Based on the National Gallery's **Take One Picture**, **The Fitzwilliam Museum** and **AccessArt** teamed together to offer free **Inspire 2020 CPD** (Continued Professional Development for Teachers), focusing on one painting, **Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo del Sellaio**, as a source of ideas and inspiration.

Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche was on display next to the children's work in the Octagon Gallery.

With very special thanks to **Kate Noble**, **Miranda Stearn**, **Sarah Villis**, and **Holly Morrison** for making this project happen and **Alison Ayres**.

This post was contributed by **Pamela Stewart** with special

permission from **Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire**, edited for **AccessArt** by [Sheila Ceccarelli](#).

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