



October 2016

CRAZE OF THE MONTH:

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF



What is The Great British Bake Off?

Unless you don't own a TV, access social media or read the news, you won't have managed to escape the craze that is The Great British Bake Off (GBBO). The popular BBC show reached its climax on Wednesday (no spoilers here so don't worry if you have yet to watch it), drawing in record audiences. Chances are many of your pupils – and their families – are fans.

Twelve contestants battled it out over eleven weeks with baking challenges as diverse as patisserie, desserts and the Tudors! The show was judged by master bakers Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry and presented by the popular duo Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins.

How can GBBO be used for literacy teaching?

We know that tapping into children's interests is a great way of engaging them in learning. Our research shows that children who enjoy writing are six times more likely to write at levels above expected for their age compared with those who do not enjoy writing. Similarly, students who write outside of school are six times as likely to be above their expected level when compared to those who don't write outside of school¹.

Our Craze of the Month taps into children's and young people's interests to improve outcomes in literacy. The activities featured here relate to the English Programmes of Study from the National Curriculum in England²:

Spoken language

Pupils should be taught to:

- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others.

Writing – composition

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes towards and stamina for writing by:
 - writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional)
 - writing about real events
 - writing for different purposes.

1 Clark, C. (2015). **Children's and Young People's Writing in 2014**. Findings from the National Literacy Trust's annual survey. London: National Literacy Trust

2 DfE (2013). The National Curriculum in England. Key Stage 1 and 2 framework document.

Using it in the classroom

GBBO offers a number of opportunities to promote learning and there are already a few [TES resources](#) that have taken inspiration from the show. Here we'll focus on how the show could be used to promote literacy.

Revolting Recipes

Taking their inspiration from the revolting recipes featured in some of Roald Dahl's best-loved books, challenge pupils to come up with their own disgusting food ideas! Get them to write down their ingredients list and method. Wormy spaghetti anyone?

GBBO review

Fans of the show could be asked to write a review of the final episode. What did they think of the bakes? Did they agree with the winner? Why/why not? Those students who haven't watched the show could write a review of a different programme or they could write about what they have heard about GBBO and what makes them want/not want to watch it.

Family recipes

GBBO is popular with adults and children alike and as such it offers some great opportunities for parental engagement. Ask pupils to speak to their parents, grandparents or other family member about their favourite recipe. This could be something they invented themselves or a family favourite passed down through the generations. Pupils need to list the ingredients required and the steps that should be followed to make the dish. These could be collated into a book of pupils' favourite recipes.

Families could be encouraged to make their favourite dish together which they then bring into school and share with other pupils and their parents. Why not nominate your own Mary and Paul to judge each dish and pick a winner?! Alternatively you could consider hosting a [Tales and Teapots party](#) to raise money for the National Literacy Trust.

New GBBO presenters

In September it was announced that GBBO will move from the BBC over to Channel Four from next year. Whilst Paul Hollywood will remain as a judge on the new show neither Mary Berry nor Mel and Sue are making the switch. Task pupils to come up with a new judge and two new presenters for the show. Who do they think would be up to the challenge and why? As an extension pupils could write a letter to one of their chosen people to offer them the job and convince them that it would be a good role for them to take on.

Pupils who are interested in baking and GBBO might like to try some of these books, which can be used to promote reading for enjoyment:

- *Great British Bake Off: Big Book of Baking* by Linda Collister
- *Great British Bake Off: Learn to Bake: 80 easy recipes for all the family* by Linda Collister
- *Nadiya's Kitchen* by Nadiya Hussain (2015 GBBO winner)
- *The Baking Life of Amelie Day* by Vanessa Curtis
- Older pupils might also enjoy the autobiographies/biographies of Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood and Mel and Sue

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The [National Literacy Trust Network](#) supports schools to develop outstanding literacy provision by providing literacy leaders with tools, resources and inspiration. [Join now](#).