

## Mulbarton Junior School 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Thank you 5/6P for all your lovely feedback. It was good to hear what you liked and disliked about the workshop I gave at your school recently. I thought you might like to see a summary of all you said. Your actual written words are now on my website.

I was especially pleased to see all those fabulous words you used to describe me; very happy, very fun, bright, very funny – also I had energy and charisma!

And the words used to describe the workshop; fun, exciting, interesting, funny, amazing, very fun, enjoyable.

What you liked most was:

- creating a superhero
- thinking of a superhero name
- making the superhero's power
- taking household things and changing them into special gadgets
- drawing the superhero

Some of you would have liked:

- more time for drawing
- longer workshop time
- time to ask questions
- smaller groups
- a chance choose your own group
- for the superhero to have more powers
- to create a villain to fight the superhero

Looking at what you would have liked...

- Time is always an issue when I visit schools. When I came to your class I had one hour to deliver an exciting workshop. There was another class waiting for me afterwards so I had to move things along quickly. That's why I gave you quick slots of time to finish each part. It also makes you focus on the task at hand. Of course, I would have loved to have been with you longer.
- I'm always happy to answer questions throughout the workshops. I try to encourage pupils to ask them during my author talk too. If you have any burning questions you can always ask your teacher to email me with them.
- Working in groups can be tricky. I have tried doing the same tasks in smaller groups, but it never worked very well. With larger groups there are greater opportunities to swap ideas and share skills, and this can encourage you to talk more and listen to each other which is an important part of learning.
- It's usually a good idea too if teachers choose the groups which often means there will be a mix of boys/girls, different literacy/maths groups work together and you get to work with pupils you might not usually work with.
- I keep to one superpower because otherwise instead of a fully rounded superhero, you might end up with a character that doesn't come across well. It's better to have one fantastic superpower than several 'okayish' ones. Less is more!
- Creating a villain would have been fantastic, but again the time we had was limited to just an hour and you all achieved so much in that time. I do run 'Story Villain' workshops where pupils look at what makes a 'good' villain.

Thanks again. Hope to see you all again at another workshop.

Debra J Edwards