

## Watch out for The Iron Man project!

Watch out next week for the first in a new series of stories which see Todmorden primary school children take Ted Hughes' book *The Iron Man* for project inspiration.



Ted Hughes

### TWEETS OF THE WEEK



Rebecca Yorke @rlyorke  
Huge congrats to @hbpicturehouse  
for securing @ntlive broadcast of @  
MIFestival Macbeth. Can't wait. A  
great night for @hebdenbridge



The Book Case @bookcasehebden  
Todmorden schools Iron Man  
project. Great project with local  
artists by Mid-Pennine Arts



## Seven schools producing work

David Smith of Mid-Pennine Arts is working with children from seven Todmorden Primary Schools on a summer multi-media project using Ted Hughes's book *The Iron Man* as their inspiration. Each week one of the schools will update readers on how the project is progressing and at its end an exhibition of their work will be held in Todmorden.



The project's logo

## Getting feel for the work

Texts for the Iron Man Project have been supplied by The Bookshop, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, and children have also been given other flavours of the late poet laureate Ted Hughes. Children from St Joseph's School have visited the Arvon Centre, founded by him, at Lumb Bank, Heptonstall.

## Ted brought him to life in 1968...

Mytholmroyd-born poet Ted Hughes wrote *The Iron Man*, a work which captures the imagination of children, in 1968. It begins when the Iron Man appears from nowhere, feeding on farm machinery, but he befriends a small boy...



Ted Hughes, who became Poet Laureate



The Iron Man is Todmorden Primary Schools' inspiration

## We can rebuild him - and at special assembly we did!

By CASTLE HILL SCHOOL  
The Iron Man Project



Children in 5/6H at Castle Hill Primary School enjoyed studying works by the Mythology-born poet and author, Ted Hughes.

The text we focused on during our project was The Iron Man. One of the ways we have made the text come alive is by producing and displaying artwork inspired by the book. Currently on display in our junior hall are some beautiful paintings inspired by the famous first chapter of the book.



Iron artefacts...in clay - work under way by Castle Hill children

We have been lucky enough to work with a ceramicist (Sarah McDade) and a storyteller (Ursula Holden-Gill).

The children have produced beautiful clay images of The Iron Man which we can't wait to see again once they have been fired in the kiln. With Ursula, the children explored the characters of the book in detail and are now in the process of planning their own "prequel" to the book entitled How The Iron Man Came to Be.

At Castle Hill, we enjoy inviting parents into school to share our work by viewing our class assemblies.

For our assembly this half-term, we created a giant cut-out model showing what we thought The Iron Man may have looked like. The children

co-wrote a set of instructions entitled 'How the build The Iron Man' based on clues hidden within the narrative in chapter one of the book.

We imagined that after his fall from the cliff, we had been given the task of reassembling him, piece by piece. During the assembly, we then constructed our Iron Man in front of a captivated audience.

Northern  
date at v

Holden Br  
dance tes  
Wilman h  
services  
to take a  
Watersid  
Road ne  
Helen w  
themed  
worksh  
Tuesda  
To sign

Po

Poet  
even  
Hel  
Cla  
po  
etr

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Todmorden schools work around Ted Hughes' Iron Man

## We took him to the stage and filmed our production of the script we had written

By MIA FRANKLIN AND MILLIE  
RINGLAND-ELSWOOD  
Walsden St Peter's Primary School

Here at Walsden St. Peter's Primary School we have been lucky to have been participating in a project about 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.

As part of the project, we were given a huge amount of The Iron Man books to read.

In the first week, we read them aloud as a class and talked about the story. We read all of the book and finished last week. I really enjoyed the story and talking about the characters. It was very exciting to read.

On Tuesdays mornings we had a visitor, artist Sarah McDade who came into our class and helped us to create art sculptures out of thick raku clay. This was an amazing opportunity. First we sketched a portrait of what we thought the Iron Man's head would look like after discussing the adjectives



used in the book. Then we each made a sculpture of the Iron Man's head and added details like bolts and nails. The next week we worked as a group to make a scene from The Iron Man out of clay.

In the third week of this fun project we made pencil sketches, paintings and collages of the Iron Man and proudly showed them in our assembly.

After having a chance to read the whole book, we decided to write our very own play-script of the story. We wrote

dialogue for the characters and added stage directions. As our homework, we wrote character descriptions so that the actors would know what to wear and how to move and speak. We performed the different scenes in front of the class and made a video.

In Design Technology we built an Iron Man torch. We used cardboard for his head, and yogurt pots for the eyes. We added a circuit with a working switch that we made ourselves. We used different coloured cellophane for his eyes. I enjoyed this very much. I will paint my Iron Man head this week.

Finally, because we had all worked so hard on the Iron Man project, we went to the Hippodrome in Todmorden and watched the amazing film, The Iron Giant. It was different to the book, but still good. I thought it was a sad film, but it was the best film I have ever watched!



Walsden St Peter's Primary School youngsters get to grips with the text

# THE IRON MAN

Taking Ted Hughes' book as our lead

## Inspired to create our new sculptures and stories

By CORNHOLME SCHOOL  
The Iron Man Project

Year 3 and 4 children at Cornholme Junior, Infant and Nursery School have immersed themselves in the project supplied by Mid Pennine Arts.

The school is already a firm believer in delivering writing through the creative curriculum in order to inspire and enthuse children's ideas and were therefore very keen to be involved.

Children in lower Key Stage 2 have explored the text of 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and then worked with two professional artists, Mick Kirkby-Geddes, a local sculptor, helped the children to form their interpretations of the Iron Man.

The children thought this day was 'fantastic', using junk materials in small groups to model before covering the pieces in mod-roc to form complete structures. As the children worked, language to describe and create was being used and developed.

Teachers can now use



Some of the Cornholme children with one of their Iron Man pieces

this stimulus to feed into children's written work.

The children then participated in two days of story-telling and drama workshops with professional story-teller Ursula Holden-Gill.

These sessions were extremely well planned and included a balanced structure of listening and working practically in order to develop ideas. Children completed their drama session with a clear starting

point for writing and are genuinely enthused about the prospect of creating their own piece of work.

Ofsted inspectors, who were in school during the workshop days, commented on the positive benefits of 'the opportunities to enjoy enrichment activities based on authors and books' when feeding back on their judgements regarding achievement of pupils at the school.





## STYLE

## The Iron Man project



Shade School pupils with some of the work they have contributed to the Todmorden primary schools project based on Mytholmroyd born Poet Laureate Ted Hughes's children's story *The Iron Man*. An autumn exhibition will follow.

## How did it all begin? Here are our ideas as to how the Iron Man was created...

BY SHADE SCHOOL PUPILS AND STAFF  
The Iron Man project

Like many other children in Todmorden, our Year 5 class have been enjoying a project on Ted Hughes and *The Iron Man*.

We have thoroughly enjoyed all of our visitors: Terry Caffrey was hilarious and inspired us to write poetry any way we wanted without worrying about the "spelling or the handwriting". He also liked to make up new words!

This poem was written by Ebony Redmond about a week after we'd met Terry:

"Don't you ever wonder what boys hide in their pocket?/It's all sorts of bits and bobs, maybe a lady's locket./ They have nails and snails, mats and cats./ Also logs and dogs, keys and peas, bees and knees/ Mostly tens of pens, for when they lose the pens from mums and dads./ Now you know what's in their pockets with lady's lockets."

Terry also showed us how to be our own publishers. We made our own books, then filled them with a poem and lift-the-flap illustrations.

Sculptor Mick Kirby-Geddes was great! We all made a bust of a person from recycled materials.

It was a bit weird though because, at lunch time, none of us were very pleased with

what we'd made. Then, when we'd put on all the mod-roc, they looked fab!

After Mick had left, we set to and covered them in tissue paper - they look a bit like mosaics. We really like the fact that they were all different - unique, like us.

Last Ursula Holden-Gill came and we enjoyed her storytelling and made our own versions of the Iron Man story. In the lovely weather, we went out onto our school-yard and did some filming of the Iron Man story.

We learnt to hold the story in our heads. No writing, but we remembered to use story language and make it as interesting as possible. We also thought about how the Iron Man ever came to exist in the first place.

Amelia Taylor thought, maybe it was a little girl who made him? She wrote: "Many years ago lived a young girl. At the age of eight Kaitlin was small and unhappy. She had no friends. Maybe it was because she had strange ideas. Or that she looked different. But whatever the reason Kaitlin was lonely."

"One day Kaitlin was sent by her mother to collect scrap metal... something to do with the environment, she was told. One by one the people of the village chucked a huge piece of scrap metal into the skip that Kaitlin was pulling along. After a couple of hours, three

skips were full of metal. Kaitlin miserably walked home; the rain pouring down on her and soaking her clothes. She told her father the skips were full and he set off to get them.

"The next day Kaitlin sat staring at the metal and suddenly a strange, strange idea burst into her head like a balloon popping at a party. It was a great idea! She, Kaitlin Gruffin, would make a huge metal Iron Man and he could be her friend! Smiling smugly Kaitlin rolled out a piece of paper and set out her plans."

Or maybe, as Harry Grif-fiths imagined, he was made by a magnetic force in space?

Harry wrote: "It all began one million years ago when a small magnet began to collect lumps of metal. Then the magnet created a hand, and then the hand began a project - the project of *The Iron Man*. When the project began the Iron Man was created bit by bit, piece by piece."

"First the hand built the head taller than a bedroom, and then it created the leg taller than a metal fence. The torso was as big as a house and the arm was half the size of the leg. Then it was completed."

Class teacher Mrs Sutcliffe says: "This has been a wonderful way to end our school year. Every child has enjoyed learning and exploring new ideas. We are really looking forward to the exhibition in Todmorden Library in the Autumn!"

Iron Man Project: an exhibition will follow

# You'll be able to see our tiles which tell the story

By JIMMY ROBERTS AND BEN SINNOTT ROBERTS  
Tue 4 and 5 pages

During summer term, Todmorden C. of E. School has been learning about Ted Hughes and the Iron Man. We have been celebrating the links with local artists and authors.

We have read the book together and have created and finished different activities. Reception class made a giant iron man model out of metal kitchen materials while Year Three put together a unique play with music. They also made some models. Year Four have recently reviewed the book and turned it into a play script. Also they drew some detailed pictures. Year Five continued a chapter of what they predicted would happen next in the story.

With local artist, Sarah McDade, each class made a different creation and designed their own iron man sculpture. When working with



Year 5 Sarah helped to create a clay sculpture of the Iron Man's head. With Year 4, Sarah made tiles showing the scenes from the Iron Man. When put together they created the whole story. Some of these clay models will be on display in September for all to see in Todmorden Library. We thought the experience was amazing and loved working with an artist. It was a very different experience to our teachers.

We really enjoyed the project and loved the book. Other books by Ted Hughes are now in the school library for all the children to come and borrow. We hope to do something like this again.



Heads it's him - work by Todmorden C of E School children will be among that exhibited in September

There's trouble

A Helden  
lived favor  
the town  
day, 7-4/3  
Written/  
howami  
Whalley  
The Stu  
one-w  
perfom  
of Holo  
of the a

En

Myth  
Join  
walk  
The  
mro  
Top

'W  
dr

St  
as  
W  
B  
C  
S