

Getting the News



Getting the News Teachers' Notes

Learning objective: Year 1, 7a: Find specific information in simple texts

Key words: frogfish, computer, newspaper, magazines

Cross-curricular/theme links: Media, technology

Genre: Non-fiction

NC level: Approximately Level 1B

Assessment: AF2, Level 1: Some simple points from familiar texts recalled

Word count: 224

Getting started

Read the title and back cover blurb together. Ask: 'Can you think of any different ways of finding out news? Have you ever heard the news on the TV or radio? How else do people find out what is going on?' Share the children's ideas.

Speaking and listening

- Before reading the book, collect all the children's suggestions for different ways of finding out about a piece of news and record them on the board or flipchart.
- Return to the suggestions after reading the book – can the children add any more ideas now?

Guided reading

Pages 2-3: Pause after page 3 to allow the children to predict some of the different ways of getting the news. What type of creature do they think a frogfish is?

Pages 4-21: As the children read about the different ways of spreading news, encourage them to think about the pros and cons of each way – for example, there are no pictures when you listen to the radio, but the news you hear is probably correct – do they think the news would always be correct if you got it from a friend?

Pages 22-24: On page 22, encourage the children to recap the different ways of getting news that the book has covered. Ask: 'What do you think would be the best way of finding out about a new animal that has been discovered? Why?'

After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the book.

- Can you tell me what this book is about, in just a couple of sentences?
- How many of the different ways of getting news can you remember?
- Think of some news that you have heard. How did you hear it?

Reading into writing

Children could think of a piece of school news – for example, about a book fair or fete, or about a new child or teacher who has joined the school. Invite them to create a newspaper article about it, or record an audio or video clip to tell others about the news.

Book quiz for children

- 1 Which ways of getting news include pictures?
- 2 Which ways of getting news involve talking to someone?
- 3 Which ways of getting news do you need a computer for?

Support for less confident readers

Before the children read the book, make sure that they are familiar with some of the different ways of getting news that are mentioned in the book. You could bring in examples of some of the different media described in the book.

Extension for more confident readers

The children could do some research on a children's news website such as the BBC's Newsround web pages. Encourage them to read about a particular story that has been in the news lately.