

The Spark Arts for Children presents

THE FIRST

by **Jayne Williams**

**A play about World War I
for younger audiences**



**NO ONE COULD BELIEVE HOW
QUICKLY THE WAR HAD BEGUN
AND THEY FEARED FOR HOW IT MIGHT END
THEY'D SEND LETTERS BACK AND FORTH
BUT NO ONE SPOKE OF THE TRUTH OF BATTLE
THE GRUESOME RATTLE OF DEATH IN THE TRENCHES**

www.thesparkarts.co.uk

the **spark**
arts for children



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE FOR SCHOOL GROUPS IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY NOVEMBER 2018

THE PLAY

THE FIRST is a play based on the global events of WWI, told from the perspective of two boys from a small town in the East Midlands. Written by Jayne Williams and produced by The Spark Arts for Children, *The First* serves as a dramatic work of fiction based on historic fact; a hook to reel in the interest and intrigue of learners aged 9+, to ignite inquisitive minds to explore their own local stories that link to the global history of WWI.

Written as a dynamic epic poem to reflect the real life encounters from the trenches, the story follows two best friends - Frederick and Jack, as they grow together, play together and enter the Great War together.

The First is a play of choices and the audience is invited to decide the fate of Jack at the end of the play.

Writer Jayne Williams

Director Adel Al-Salloum

'The connection and empathy that the children developed as a result of the play was evident from the initial performance and sessions afterwards. It was obvious that the children had developed an emotional connection with the characters and as a result, had a much greater understanding of the events that occurred in the First World War. I am sure that the resulting work in History and English at school was greatly enhanced.'

Ismail Dale

Local Heritage Education Manager
for Heritage Schools East Midlands

It has made me realise how little we utilise the library so this is something we will address

G Smith

Killisick Junior School

THE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Attending a performance in your library will open up a range of learning opportunities for your students. 'The First' experience can be enhanced with a number of activities, including a bespoke learning framework and a script programme from the show. These resources will support activity for group discussion and creative writing, while developing speaking and listening skills as well as literacy levels.

This production creates links to local history and heritage which can be explored via supported learning of the true events of WWI including the journey that local East Midlands soldiers would have made from their homes to the battlefield. In addition, you could unpick some of the most famous poems from those on the frontline and inspire your students to write their very own.

THE LEARNING FRAMEWORK - SparkPlus

When you book for The First you will be invited to work with The Spark Arts for Children, who have created a teacher led framework that has been specially designed to demonstrate improvements in comprehension, language and writing. SparkPlus has been developed in consultation with head teachers, using flexible planning around world class children's theatre and formative assessment using cold and hot writing tasks.

It offers a bespoke way of learning, an effective way to measure the impact of creative learning and teacher CPD. With a briefing and continued support from a specialist teacher, plus suggested additional resources linked to the show, SparkPlus enhances the learning and value of theatre in your library.

EXHIBITING WORK IN THE LIBRARY

Displaying children's work lets them know you value it - and them. Previously, the children who saw the play were compelled to write the next chapter and decide the fate of the character Jack. Through their historical knowledge, many suggested he would have gone on to fight in WWII. Others explored the impact of losing his best friend in the war. These stories were displayed in the Library and children proudly brought family members back to read them.

WE ARE ARTSMARK PARTNERS

Our libraries are proud to be supporting schools and education settings on their Artsmark journey, inspiring children and young people to create, experience, and participate in great arts and culture. We offer partnership working to education settings who are working towards, or currently hold an Artsmark Award, through a range of arts and cultural opportunities.

COSTS

Tickets: only £90 per class

subsidised by Arts Council England - usual cost £160 per class

Running time: 60 minutes | **Age:** KS2 (Year 5 & 6)

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Literacy, History, Geography, PSHE (Friendships, Citizenship, Remembrance), English Literature (Creative Writing and War Poetry) KS2

'Thank you for giving our Year 6 children an opportunity to watch the WWI play. For a whole academic term we have been studying WW1 through History and using it as a stimulus for writing in our Literacy lessons. Watching this play has made the children empathise with soldiers' lives back then and has made all the facts they learnt about WWI come to life. The writing the children produced was of a high standard. They wrote diary entries, a poem and a narrative flashback story. They thoroughly enjoyed it and it really had a positive impact on their Literacy writing and History learning.'

Jasmin Laloo

Year 6 teacher, Year 5 and 6 Phase Leader

The visit was fantastic. I cannot stress how much we enjoyed it and how valuable we feel it has been. The children can be a loud year group but all were attentive and concentrating. Some were even moved to tears. We would love to be contacted again if any other opportunities arise.

Kirsty Graham

Barnby Road Academy



CONTACT

Contact us to book your performance and ask us about the learning framework



ARTSMARK

Artsmark brings learning to life through arts and culture.

Artsmark is the creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It provides a clear framework for teachers to plan, develop and evaluate arts, culture and creativity across the curriculum.

- Designed to align with School Improvement Plans and support core EBACC and STEM priorities, giving the curriculum breadth and balance.
- It provides schools with access to networks of leading cultural organisations that will enable them to use the arts to engage and develop happy, self-expressed and confident young people and inspire teachers.
- Helps to encourage pupil voice and leadership skills
- Provides an engaging and accessible way into the curriculum for hard to reach or disadvantaged pupils

Your local library can support and add value to your Artsmark journey through

- Continued Professional Development opportunities for staff
- Performances linked to the curriculum for students
- Visits to exhibitions and opportunities to exhibit work made in school
- Family learning and engagement in literacy
- Support and input on evaluation methods and impact measures



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