

## PSLS FACTSHEET 3

### Challenge and First Time Boxes for Primary Schools

#### Challenge Boxes

##### Entitlement

- Each school is entitled to one Challenge box per key stage per term
- A box contains 20 fiction and non-fiction titles
- The Challenge boxes are provided as part of your subscription - there is no additional charge - they are supplied on request by completing a topic form in the headteacher's name.

##### Who are these books for?

- **aimed at gifted and talented pupils, however, all ability levels**, will enjoy some of these books - for example, those books with very intricate or detailed illustrations
- children can access many of the more open-ended stories at their own level
- able children will particularly enjoy the humorous, unusual, open-ended or puzzle-type books

##### How can they be used?

- the book boxes could be circulated around classrooms - perhaps spending a week in each class
- the books could be used as free choice during registration or reading sessions
- particular books could be used for extension group work within literacy
- specific books could be selected for a whole class study – as a stimulus to generate questioning and discussion
- remember that apparently simple picture books may be open-ended stories with complex layers of meaning
- allow opportunities for children to question, discuss, brainstorm ideas and engage with the 'thinking' behind some of these stories
- use some of these ideas as a stimulus, or springboard, for children to experiment with, or develop, similar ideas

## You Can Get It From Us

- possible use for a lunchtime or after-school club for interested pupils who would like more time to explore and enjoy these books (possibly linked to a Puzzle or Challenge Club with other open-ended activities)

### **First Time Boxes**

#### **Entitlement**

- Each school with an LEA supported nursery is entitled to one First Time box per term as part of their topic allowance
- A box contains 15 resources including storytapes and book and storytape packs
- The First Time boxes are provided as part of your subscription - there is no additional charge - they are supplied on request by completing a topic form

#### **Who are these books for and how can they be used?**

- The collections are aimed specifically at 3-4 year olds - the emphasis being on exciting those children who are being introduced to books for the first time
- As with most resources however they can be used in different ways and at different levels with older children if a school wishes to extend the use
- The tactile and interactive nature of many of the resources included are ideal to share with pupils of any age who have learning difficulties or who, for whatever reason, are not motivated readers. Similar materials are available through the SEN Extra service
- These fun and accessible resources would be particularly useful for encouraging reluctant parents to share books with their children
- Use the resources as bait to get them hooked on reading and then open up the full library collection to them – “you liked these, can you find others like ...”