

Empathy Day video - Penny Chrimes

- All about Empathy Lab initiative and Empathy Day and links to resources
- Breakdown of contents of video
- Link to Sesame Street video explaining Empathy

Penny Chrimes: author of *Tiger Heart and The Dragon* and *Her Boy - the Gutterling Chronicles* - about the adventures of a gang of street children in late Georgian/early Victorian London.

Empathy Day 2021 - Thursday June 10 – an initiative from Empathy Lab, which was set up to encourage children to understand and use empathy in their daily lives, especially through reading and creative writing.

Pilot projects in schools across UK to conduct research into impact of using Empathy across curriculum, but especially in reading and writing.

A number of authors including Michael Rosen, Cressida Cowell, Malorie Blackman, Michael Morpurgo, Patrice Lawrence, David Baddiel, Jacqueline Wilson and Holly Bourne are involved in talking to children about how they use empathy in their own writing, and showing children how they can expand their sense of empathy by reading and thinking about the characters in books. Empathy Lab encourages children to use empathy in their own writing and in their lives.

Empathy Day 2021

Never have we needed empathy more. Empathy Day is on 10 June and offers really creative, practical ways to help young people learn more about empathy and put it into practice. This year's theme is **walking in someone else's shoes**. See [here](#) for details. These are the calls to action

- **READ** – Use empathy-rich books to deepen your understanding of other people. Join in the massive #ReadForEmpathy social media campaign.
- **CONNECT** – Go on an [Empathy Walk](#) and connect to the reality of your local community.
- **ACT** – Use your increased understanding to help change things. Make an [Empathy Resolution](#).

How to get involved

Empathy Day LIVE! Is a spectacular [online festival](#) with interactive activities led by inspirational children's authors and illustrators - much-loved names and powerful new voices. The day finishes with the **Empathy Conversation** – a cutting edge discussion with leading psychologist and authors. All available at [empathylab.uk](#), on the day, and after too.

A Family Activities Pack and new Empathy Shorts (original 500 word stories) will be released on 11 May.

To get the latest news...subscribe to EmpathyLab's newsletter [here](#). Follow @EmpathyLabUK on Twitter; visit empathylab.uk

PENNY CHRIMES EMPATHY DAY VIDEO

RUNS 32' WITH TWO PAUSES FOR SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Resources needed for activities:

- 2 large pieces of paper on floor with room for children to write words.
- I suggest it might be worth playing the Sesame Street video explaining what Empathy is before (or after) the video, although it is not necessary:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_1Rt1R4xbM

Video Outline

- Introduction to Penny Chrimes
- Explanation of empathy
- Theme of empathy day 2021: walking in someone else's shoes.
- Discussion of photograph of 'Adelaide's best and only boots' and preliminary introduction to writing challenge.
- Empathy in books e.g. Edmund in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Harry Potter and Charlotte's Web.
- Discussion of how authors create empathy e.g. describing body language
- A reading from Tiger Heart
- **ACTIVITY 1** – children to write down a character from a book feeling a certain emotion; split into pairs and each act out the character and the emotions using body language but no words. Partner to try to guess emotion being acted and also character.
- **PAUSE VIDEO FOR ACTIVITY**
- How empathy for characters in historical adventure books can bring the past back to life.
- Mudlarks Job- Penny paddles in the Thames to see what it's like to stand in freezing mud/water.
- Reading from the Dragon and her Boy- two different viewpoints.
- **ACTIVITY 2** – split class in half and each group has a large piece of paper on the floor. One is the Dragon, the other is Stick. Discuss how their character is feeling in

that reading and write down lots of words for those feelings. Then each group shares how they were feeling and how much the words are the same and how much they were different.

- **PAUSE VIDEO FOR ACTIVITY**
- **FINAL SECTION-** Penny reads her story for Empathy Day: If Little Red Riding Hood had empathy.
- **TASK SETTING** – imagine you are walking in someone else’s shoes. It could be Adelaide’s old boots or a completely different pair of shoes/ boots. Feel free to share any stories with Amy Icke (a.icke@wes.gdst.net) who will be able to pass these on to Penny.