

LITERACY learning springboards

Pappus

Language of flowers: floriography

Exploring the coded language of flowers

The Language of Flowers means speaking indirectly, in codes which are implied by flowers' names. Lovers often used these codes as message to their partners. In the past, flowers were commonly used as a symbol of feelings or emotional states and each flower had its meaning. For example, Poppy means: I am not free.

There used to be dictionaries of the name and the meaning of using these flowers. Now you can find different sources with different meaning on the internet.

Activity:

Design and draw a flower posy with a message to a loved one – it could be a family member, a friend, a pet or even a favourite musician or actor.




Find and print off the poster above as a starting point:

<https://www.almanac.com/content/flower-meanings-language-flowers>

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can describe the characteristics and meaning of flowers I would present to someone for a special reason.

Floriography
Language of flowers 

Plants as metaphors

“From tiny acorns...”

Aim: to develop language used in writing through plant metaphors

Plants and growing are the source of many metaphors used in everyday language.

It does not matter if you have very few plants in the grounds, or even only weeds. Pupils just need to find a plant or two to focus on as inspiration (or as a last resort bring some plants or branches into the classroom and take them outside for the activity itself)

Activity:

Pupils work in groups, outside, examining any plants or trees they can see, then listing the key features of plants - such as seed, root, branch, shoot, leaf, bark etc.

Then they list as many metaphors they can think of for each feature. Such as:

- from tiny acorns...
- seed of an idea...
- root of the problem...
- ideas blossom
- bearing fruit...

Then there are also plant specific metaphors such as

- couch potato
- olive branch

Building on this, pupils can also research, floriography, the language of flowers.

More springboards:

- Floriography (adjacent)

Success criteria:

- ✓ I understand how flower and plant metaphors can be used to enhance writing
- ✓ I have used a flower or plant metaphor to enhance a piece of writing

