

Hans-My-Hedgehog Reflection

It was wonderful to work with children using a story that, despite having roots in the same Greek mythology and traditional folk tales as common English fairy-tales, is rather different to the stories they will have been used to.



I think that the use of a P4C (Philosophy for Children) session using the story of Cupid and Psyche, which is perhaps the mythological Greek origin of Hans-

My-Hedgehog, allowed pupils to access analytical perspectives on the key themes and moral teachings that are often prevalent in popular fairy tales. The



children also had a great confidence with the story of Cupid and Psyche as Cupid is a character that the pupils had come across in modern popular culture (E.g. Disney's 'Hercules' as well as the use of Cupid as symbolic of love for Valentine's day). This led them to discuss the moral teaching of the story and which characters were 'good' and which were 'bad'.

This was very interesting to observe as, unlike most of the traditional English stories and modern pop culture adaptations, Hans-My-Hedgehog has characters (Hans for instance), that do not fall cleanly or entirely into either category.

Their discussion clearly illustrated the level of engagement with the activity and their understanding of and empathy for each character. Pupils even conversed about the fact that the first king might have lied to Hans in order to protect his daughter that he loved, which is not a behaviour that most children would associate with a 'baddy'.



