

The Blackden Trust
English 2015
A Writer's World – Alan Garner and his place
Outline of activities

1

The details below can be adapted and extended according to the needs of individual schools.

10.15 Arrive at Blackden Hall

- Children met at the coach drop off point
- Health and safety briefing for the walk
- **Briefing**
- Explain that children will be spending the day trying to look and see and think like a writer
- Children told that they are now in Alan Garner's place and they are walking in his footsteps and are seeing what he sees
- Children walk from Blackden Hall to the Old Medicine House
- Children encouraged to observe their surroundings as they walk up

10.30 Arrive at the Old Medicine House

Welcome & Health and Safety

- Briefing - Health & Safety for house and garden
- Drinks and biscuits
- Toilets

10.40 Introduction to theme of the day - Alan Garner's place

- Brief introduction to concept or influences on a writer's work
- Remind children of the physical existence of places mentioned in text of The Weirdstone of Brisingamen
- Place is important to him
- What kind of place has he chosen to live in?
- List observations on flipchart

10.50 Discovering Alan Garner's garden - Picture Puzzles

- Children work in pairs
- Each pair given a sheet of picture puzzles
- Brief children on how to solve the puzzles
- Children locate each image on their sheet

11.10 Observation - Plenary

- Quick tour round the garden to identify solution to puzzles and riddles
- Opportunity to walk the Labyrinth

The Blackden Trust
English 2015
A Writer's World – Alan Garner and his place
Outline of activities

2

11.20 Discovering the house that once belonged to Alan Garner

- Divide children into 3 groups
- Accompanied by a tutor each group rotates round 3 locations and the children are encouraged to observe closely
- Location 1: Old Medicine House - Downstairs and Link - The archaeological objects Alan has collected
- Location 2: Old Medicine House - Upstairs - The sight and feel and smell of a timber framed house
- Location 3: Old Medicine House - Wing – Some of the objects that feature in his books

11.50 Toilets & wash hands

Lunch

12.20 Observation - Alan Garner's precious things

- Introduction: just as Alan Garner writes about real places he also writes about real things in all his books.
- Children look at and handle some of those things
- Children sit in 4 groups
- 4 bowls containing objects that have a connection with Alan Garner are rotated round the 4 groups
- The children will handle the objects and think about how they were used, where they might have come from and why they might be important to Alan

13.00 Plenary – Debrief and prepare for creative response

- Debrief and discuss what children feel about the place and the things they have seen
- Set creative task to be undertaken in the Old Medicine House: writing, drawing, or any other feasible way of expressing what children feel they have discovered
- Or, children write a story of their own based on what they have discovered
- Discuss how they might do this

13.15 Creative work

- Children work on their own

13.45 Feedback of Creative work

- Children show their work

14.10 Plenary and feedback

- Sum up day

14.30 Depart