

THE FUTURE SKETCHBOOK - A GUIDE

A guide for Year 4 teachers, parents and guardians to support young people's creative exploration

The Future Sketchbook has been specially created by award winning artist Ryan Gander, as part of a collaborative project between the artist and a group of Year 4 pupils from 3 Primary Schools in the London Borough of Southwark. A sculpture developed by Ryan Gander, in collaboration with the children, will be unveiled at Elephant Park in Summer 2023. The project has been developed in partnership with the South London Gallery, the Contemporary Art Society and funded by Lendlease. As part of the project, copies of *The Future Sketchbook* will be distributed for free to Year 4 school children in Southwark, alongside being freely distributed as a PDF for students across the UK.

The Future Sketchbook is one-of-a-kind book designed in collaboration with Ryan Gander and South London Gallery. It has 190 pages filled with fun and playful activities and ideas that spark imagination and explore creativity. Themed across 3 chapters designed to explore 'the self, the local and the global', young people are challenged to think outside the box, imagine the impossible and create a future they want to see.

Example questions include:

'If I had chosen my own name, I would have called myself...'

'Draw yourself very small imagining something enormous'

'Would you rather — moo like a cow or bark like a dog?'

The exercises purposely provoke mind bending questions to promote creative and critical thinking, enabling a young person to explore their interests, ideas and support the development of their sense of self.

"The book aims to create positive stories for young people to live inside, allowing them to reflect the diversity and energy of place and the future. It's meant to highlight there is not a single correct solution but an abundance of possible perspectives of different people, all of which have equal value.

We live in a culture where logic and rhetoric run wild and command all, yet illogic, creative and abstract thinking are some of Britain's greatest exports."

- Ryan Gander, the artist

HOW TO USE

Books can be handed out to the children for completion in their own free time, independently in the classroom, or at home. There is no expectation from schools to deliver anything in response to the books – these are purely for each young person’s enjoyment and creative development!

Explore our top tips below from Southwark teachers and the South London Gallery education team on how to support children in their use of the sketchbooks.

GENERAL TIPS

- Read together the manifesto at the start of the book.
- Introduce the artist Ryan Gander and that this book has been created only for Year 4 pupils in Southwark and is not for sale i.e., a very special book!
- Remind children that there is no wrong answer and no one will be marking their work – it’s for their own enjoyment.
- Provide scaffolding to introduce the idea of subjectivity to the class.
- Consider pre-teaching some vocabulary e.g., abstract, initials and motto.
- Discuss options for what details they can draw or write if they find the open choice difficult.

Curriculum links for Key Stage 2

The Future Sketchbook is there to engage, inspire and challenge children and can be a useful resource to support learning across the KS2 curriculum within:

- Design and Technology
- Art and Design
- English; Reading & Writing
- PSHE / Health & Wellbeing
- Citizenship

Resources

- Pens and pencils
- Imagination...
- Anything the young people are interested in using!

Suggested reflection questions

- What did that activity make you feel about the ideas you have?
- Can you share your favourite activity and why?
- Can you share any new ideas you’ve had from doing the activities?
- How has doing this activity changed how you think about the future?
- What questions has it made you want to ask or find out more about?

“It was great to offer it to pupils to do if they finished their work early and sometimes as a mindful exercise for 10 minutes after lunch or on Friday afternoons.”

Ms. Hiscock, Year 4 Teacher, Robert Browning School

“The pupils loved the books. It was really important for them to know that this book was theirs to own. It was helpful to look through the books before sharing them with the class to pre-empt any questions regarding the language and directions, which can be confusing at first!”

Mr. Hughes, Charlotte Sharman Primary School

Want to get involved in more art in your local area?

The South London Gallery offers free visits and activities to support creative learning with schools, as well as regular free drop-in activities for children aged 6-12 and their families. For more information, email schools@southlondongallery.org or visit www.southlondongallery.org.