



Sharing experiences of facilitation through writing

Part 1

Journal of the Association for
Management Education and
Development



amed
developing people
developing organisations

Gold Teeth

We find a seat in the small room off the corridor, usually used for storing books, but also for working 1:1 with kids who need some extra support with reading.

Vrushali seems thoughtful today, preoccupied.



As we sit down, she begins to tell me about her forthcoming birthday, and how she wants some coloured pens so that she could make a picture for somebody.

"That sounds great" I say. "Who's it for?"

"My grandma" she says quietly.

"So which book are we reading today?" I ask.

"It's called 'Flat Stanley' " she says slowly. "He's a boy who can slide under doors, cos he's so thin."

"Why's he so thin?" I ask.

"Cos a board fell on him. But his parents don't seem that worried..." she trails off.

"Oh really?" I say. "Well, let's see how Stanley's getting on this week."

She finds her place in the book and begins to read. We practise 'sounding out' when she comes across unfamiliar words: dis-cover-ing, to-geth-er, fav-our-ite.

Suddenly, she looks up at me. "Why have you got gold teeth?"

I laugh. "Well, those teeth are a bit worn down, so the dentist put some strong stuff on them for me."

"Is it real gold?" she asks

"Yes."

"I want gold teeth when I'm old. Like my grandma" she says, looking down.

"Has she got some gold teeth?"

She nods, and looks down again at the page.

She reads on. She's right: neither Stanley's parents, nor the doctor, seem very concerned about the extreme squashed state of their son; in fact they sound quite blaming. I wonder what Vrushali, and other kids who read this story, make of the parenting style here.

Vrushali reaches the bottom of the page.

"On this page, can you show me the word... 'parent' ... 'brother' 'squashed'" I ask.

She quickly points to the words.

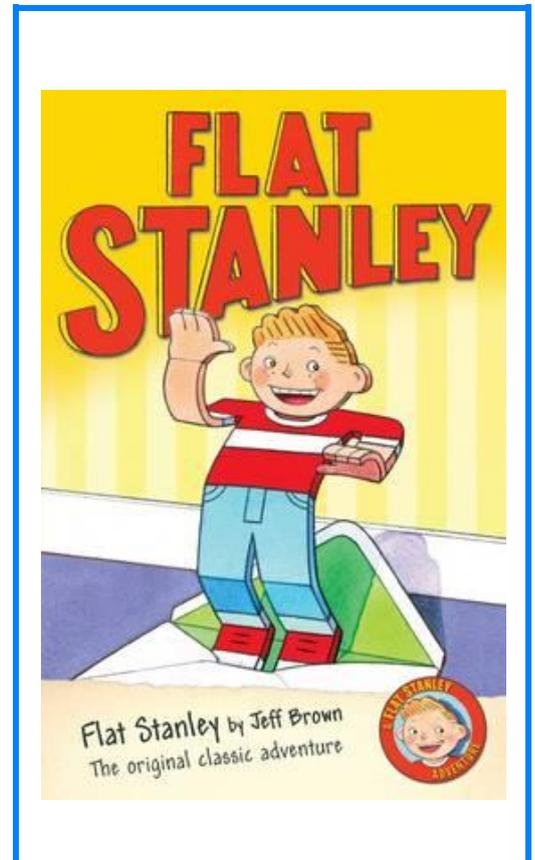
"Good" I encourage. "Now you ask me to show you a word..."

She asks me to find 'classroom', 'homework', 'worry'.

She reads on some more. In the hall across the corridor, I can see a group of kids, swaying their arms, like trees or a field of barley.

Vrushali looks at me.

"You're not listening to me. Nobody listens to me." she says in a wavering voice.



"Yes, I'm listening to you. You were just talking about Stanley and his friends at school."

"I don't want to read anymore." she says.

"Ok, shall we just read to the end of this page? You've done good reading today, and learned some new words - "together ", "squashed".

She nods, and reads quickly to the end of the page.

"Good reading Vrushali. Keep practising - 5 minutes a day, like brushing your teeth, and I'll see you next week. Would you like a sticker?"



"Can I have two? The Letter ones?" she asks.

"Go on then" I say. She carefully picks off the silver V and the gold S from the strip and sticks them on her T-shirt.

"S is for my grandma's name" she says, and is gone.

A note about AMED



AMED stands for the Association for Management Education and Development, www.amed.org.uk. We are a long-established membership organisation and educational charity devoted to developing people and organisations.

Our purpose is to serve as a forum for people who want to share, learn and experiment, and find support, encouragement, and innovative ways of communicating. Our conversations are open, constructive, and facilitated.

Through AMED, we strive to benefit our members and the wider society. Exclusive Member benefits include excellent professional indemnity cover at a significant discount, free copies of the quarterly journal *e-O&P*, and discounted fees for participation in a range of face-to-face events, special interest groups, and our interactive website. We aim to build on our three cornerstones of **knowledge**, **innovation** and **networking** in the digital age. Wherever we can, AMED Members, Networkers and Guests seek to work with likeminded individuals and organisations to generate synergy and critical mass for change. www.amed.org.uk, or contact **Linda Williams**, our Membership Administrator, E: amedoffice@amed.org.uk, T: 0300 365 1247