

# TEACHERS' PACK

"The foundry on Clarence Road Leeds started production in the 1930s; its closure was announced in September 2003. From April until November 2004 Heads Together Productions facilitated the project 'Meltdown'. Foundry staff were encouraged to record and express their thoughts and memories of working in a large foundry facing closure."



The project resulted in a dynamically filmed DVD, beautifully illustrated book and a supportive website, this resource helps facilitate the use of these unique materials.

The pack provides suggested activities for Literacy, Science, History, Geography, ICT, Art, Citizenship, Music and Dance, for KS2; linked to the QCA documents. Material and activities can be adapted for KS1 and KS3.

**MELTDOWN** could easily be used as a stand alone resource to support individual areas of the curriculum above, however the materials are also suitable to be used in a cross curricular manner and could therefore be easily integrated into existing medium term planning to enhance learning.

## MELTDOWN RESOURCES

**FREE COPIES** of the **MELTDOWN** book (containing photos and first hand accounts from the people who worked there and which document the history of the foundry) are available from Artemis/ Education Leeds. The DVD '**Cast Well and True** ' costs £5 from Heads Together Productions.

**WEBSITE** [www.fettling.com](http://www.fettling.com) provides **free** access to downloadable resources from the **MELTDOWN** book for you to reproduce to use with your pupils, such as, newspaper articles, photos and poems describing workers experiences.

**ORIGINAL OBJECTS** are available for loan from ARTEMIS.

This includes: protective clothing, such as gloves and goggles; large photos; signage; shadow boards and tools. These help bring the materials alive as children handle and explore them in their own classroom. **ARTEMIS: 0113 244 0497**



**ARTEMIS**  
t: 0113 244 0497  
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email: [artemis@leedslearning.net](mailto:artemis@leedslearning.net)



**Heads Together Productions**  
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web: [www.heads.demon.co.uk](http://www.heads.demon.co.uk)



Teachers pack written by: Nick Cass web: [www.nick.cass.co.uk](http://www.nick.cass.co.uk)

## How is MELTDOWN relevant to teaching the Literacy curriculum?



It provides newspaper articles, unique poems and first hand accounts which can be matched to many areas of the NLS. The DVD of the working foundry provides an exciting stimulus for creative writing and sensory poetry. The nature of the **MELTDOWN** resource lends itself well to non-fiction writing to support Science and History topic work, but also to work which empathises with the feelings and experiences of the foundry workers. A few suggestions for activities have been included here.

**Resources include:** poems; copies of newspaper articles recording the closure of the foundry, which can be downloaded to be used with interactive whiteboards or as hard copies for the children to handle; first hand accounts from workers, including those from one female worker who worked there during WWII; letters to the workforce, which form a diary recording events leading up to the closure of the foundry.

## NATIONAL LITERACY STRATEGY

### DEBATES/PERSUASIVE WRITING

Year 4 Term 3

Year 5 Term 3

Year 6 Term 2

- Develop empathy with the employees by using the employees' own accounts in role play. Children can form small groups in which some take the role of employers, management and workforce.
- Act or mime the meeting in which the employers decide the factory must close. What reasons could there be, how might they feel?
- Act or mime the meeting in which the management tell the workforce that the factory must close. How do they think each group would feel and respond to hearing that the foundry is to close.
- Write a balanced argument stating both reasons for and against the closure of the foundry. Look at the language and paragraphing structure appropriate to writing a balanced argument.

### LETTERS

Year 3 Term 3

- Read a selection of letters and decide on the purpose. Look at structure, tone. Write own letters for a purpose.

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## NATIONAL LITERACY STRATEGY

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### NEWSPAPERS

Year 4 Term 1

Year 5 Term 1

Year 6 Term 1

- Explore the structure of the newspaper reports detailing the closure of the foundry and the **MELTDOWN** project (see website). *ICT: Annotate articles with prepared labels, using an interactive whiteboard, to reinforce newspaper vocabulary.*
- Reinforce newspaper vocabulary by annotating features of newspaper layout on individual copies.
- Collect other newspaper articles and annotate features of layout to form a display.
- Get the children to read the newspaper stories and find the answers to the five W's (who, what, why, where, when) of journalistic writing.
- Using interesting photos from the resources ask them to make up newspaper headlines about the photos.
- Analyse the style of the writing looking for evidence of bias and give possible reasons for bias, such as who is writing the articles, and who is the intended audience.
- Write unbiased accounts and then write a biased account of the closure of the factory. Brainstorm reasons for and against the closure as a group or class initially and use these to form their articles.
- Read the personal accounts given by the employees, describing their experiences linked to the foundry. Combine all these different pieces of evidence to write their own newspaper account of the foundry closing, including 'interviews' with quotes from the employees and photos.  
*ICT: Produce in either MS Word or MS Publisher, thinking about text layout, font features, saving and retrieving documents.*
- Link your newspaper reports to history (see notes for history).

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### AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY

Year 6 Term 1

- Read a selection of the recounts which describe experiences of people who have been involved with the foundry. Look at content, structure, use of fact and opinion, language.
- Use these to structure own autobiographical/ biographical writing.

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### EXPLANATIONS

Year 5 Term 2

Year 6 Term 3

- A cross curricular link with science; explaining methods of melting, molding, casting.
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