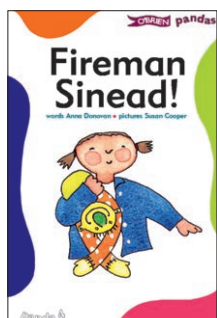


FIREMAN SINEAD! – PANDA 4

by Anna Donovan, illustrated by Susan Cooper

ISBN: 0-86278-529-4 • €5.50 pb • 64 pages



When Sinead announces that she wants to be a fireman, her dad is puzzled, he has never heard of a girl fireman, but he makes a special ladder for her so that she can practise climbing. Mum is doubtful too, but she makes a heavy, floppy doll for Sinead to rescue. Her friend Tom doesn't encourage her, he *knows* that girls can't be firemen, but Sinead ignores him and continues to climb up and down the ladder, carefully holding her floppy doll, Victim. She even practises at night, but

this gets her into trouble when she makes the mistake of shouting 'Fire', waking her family and neighbours. Mum even suggests that she should become a nurse instead! But when the fire brigade zooms down her street to answer a genuine emergency call, she gets a pleasant surprise and Tom has to admit he can learn from Firefighter Sinead.

LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Discussion: Occupations: Listing and telling what is known about different occupations – working from home and away from home; jobs which may have been traditionally seen as appropriate for males/females.
- ◆ Discussion: 'Where there's smoke, there's fire.' Is this true? Children could discuss the multiple meanings of this expression and examine other popular colloquialisms.
- ◆ Language of accidents: Rescue, victim, hospital, nurse, doctor, emergency.
- ◆ Language of house fires: Red engines, lights flashing, sirens blaring, water hydrant, huge water hose, helmet, ladder, firefighter, smoke, damage.
- ◆ Poem: *Matilda, Who Told Lies, and was Burned to Death*, by Hilaire Belloc.

LANGUAGE – GAELIGE

- ◆ Simple nouns and phrases associated with fires: Inneall dóiteáin, briogáid dóiteáin, dréimire, trí thine, deatach, uisce, múchtóir dóiteáin.

SESE – GEOGRAPHY

- ◆ My family and the community: People at work. The work of people in a range of locations in the locality, e.g., garda station, fire station, hospital.
- ◆ Living in the community: Discuss importance of home as a place of shelter and of safety. Develop an awareness of different types of homes.
- ◆ The local natural environment: Learning about water and its uses, observing and recording water

hydrants in the locality.

- ◆ Heat: Discussing different sources of heat energy – sun, fire, radiator.

SPHE

- ◆ Developing citizenship: Exploring issues of sexual equality arising from the story, appreciating how people depend on each other in many aspects of life, discussing those who have special responsibilities in the locality and the importance of each individual to community life.
- ◆ Safety issues: Fire prevention, an awareness of how carelessness with matches can lead to house fires. What to do in an emergency.
- ◆ Myself and my family: Identifying the ways in which members of families can help and support each other, discuss the support given to Sinead by her parents – did they encourage her in her desire to become a fireman? If so, in what way?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Game: Passing the bucket of water. Fill bucket to brim with beanbags, class in two circles, race each other to pass bucket without spilling 'water'.
- ◆ Obstacle race: Chairs to form tunnel, benches for garden walls, apparatus to represent houses. Teams compete to save teddy from burning building.

VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Fireworks: See *Busy Fingers* series, No. 3, Autumn/Hallowe'en, p.8.
- ◆ Bonfire collage: See p.10, as above.
- ◆ Finger painting: Bonfire: See *Starting Art*, Book 1, pp.20–21.