

Angel Boy

Jane Leigh, Literacy Coordinator
Howletch Lane Primary School, County Durham

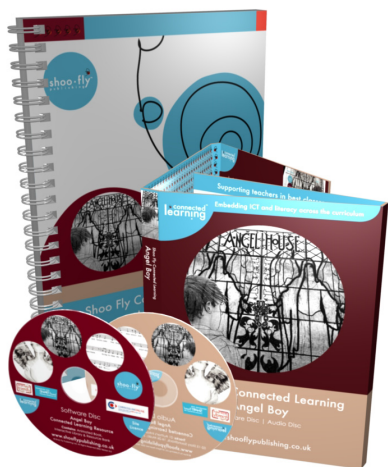
Angel Boy is a truly unique and innovative resource that will capture the imagination of both teachers and children alike.

Angel Boy provides teachers with a valuable resource based around four animated books that will engage and inspire older children in the primary phase of education.

Used as a literacy resource, this resource offers much scope for teaching and learning the many different genres of writing required by the national literacy strategy and beyond. In addition to this, it also provides a fantastic range of cross-curricular activities that are further supported by the teacher's handbook and worksheets.

Angel Boy is an invaluable time-saving resource for teachers whose time is precious, as the interactive activities, animated books, audio disc and worksheets are readily available. Various elements of the resource could also be used lower down in the primary school or alternatively at secondary school level. The powerful visual imagery and sensory experiences are particularly striking and will hence engage even the most reluctant learners, particularly boys.

This resource will be strongly welcomed into any primary school. Angel Boy only has to be seen to fully appreciate the true value that it offers both teachers and children.



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Lynne Joyce, Senior Teacher
Epina School, Jarrow, North Tyneside

Epina School is a school for young people with complex learning needs aged 5-16 years.

This resource is awesome!

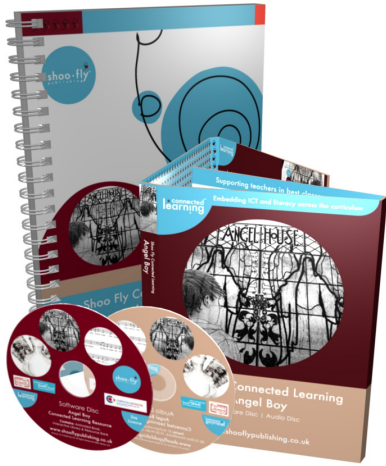
The thing I notice most about this resource is that everything seems real. There is nothing static it is real and alive. Young people are captivated and inspired by the quality of the illustrations and photographs. I would use this resource to teach a range of subjects with year 8 / 9 and 10 pupils.

The music in particular encourages brilliant discussion ... our children need different ranges of approaches so that they will not get bored with lots of different elements. I love the way the music looks at the emotion of the illustrations and supports young people who cannot read music as 'music-makers' in themselves.

I personally find the photographs mind-blowing. Some photographs are simple and some artistic, giving me ideas about how I might use some of the more creative techniques myself ... ideas that aren't technically difficult but that I might never have thought of. I like the range of graphic styles, I am personally captivated and feel I am learning alongside my pupils.

Working in special education we never seem to get appropriate resources for older pupils. With this resource I have absolutely everything I need to pick up and run with it. ... it is so complete.

From a teaching point of view the Handbook is excellent support. It is beautifully designed and set out clearly. I like the way in which the whiteboard activities are readable, telling you clearly what it is about ... even to the point of suggesting what questions the teacher might ask. This is very useful for planning and a tremendous support for the teacher, saving a lot of time trying to find supporting materials.



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Lynne Joyce, Senior Teacher
Epinay School, Jarrow, North Tyneside

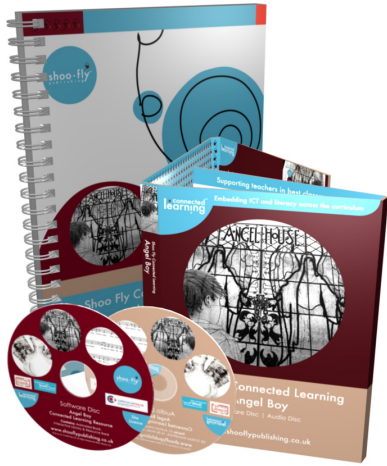
Angel Boy looks creative before you even start! I like the way literacy is seen as cross-curricular and yet includes a wide range of activities. When teaching English to older pupils I have always found the Gothic genre difficult to support with age and ability-appropriate materials from the web no longer! There is loads of imagery and the texts interactive whiteboard activities that use different text types are great!

The inclusion of Citizenship and Transition project that explores the theme of bullying and friendship is brilliant. I have found many resources that tackle feelings and emotions to be often woolly that is if you can find an appropriate resource at all!

The photocopiable resource sheets are designed in a way that looks 'mature' for older pupils and encourages a higher level of response. I do not have a problem asking my young people to respond ... usually they would say, "I am not doing that it is for babies!" Instead, these activity sheets gets rid of the fear a lot of my pupils have about a blank piece of paper ... they want to write on the activity sheets ... a little unusual in my situation!

As a Business and Enterprise school it is tremendously valuable to have statements in the Handbook from the composers and artists who created the resource. This makes the whole thing real and will encourage students to see the range of possibilities open to them.

This resource opens the doors for all teachers in the same position as myself, that is teachers who are working in areas in which they are not skilled in with pupils who make demands for engaging and stimulating materials. Angel Boy meets all these challenges ... it is a deep, emotional resource that is as equally inspiring to teachers as it is to the young people it is designed for.



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**Laura Compton, ICT Curriculum Development Officer
West Lothian Education Centre, Livingston**

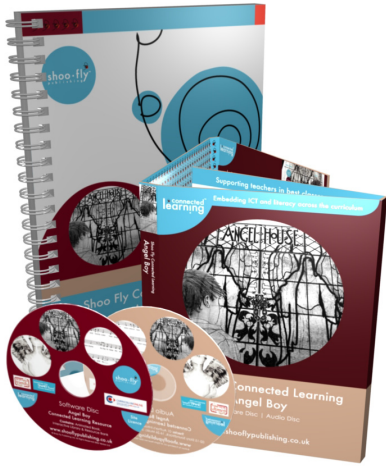
Angel Boy is a resource that recognises the creativity of teachers and young people. It has a depth and quality that absorbs adults and youngsters alike.

Often software with a focus on literacy and language concentrates on the development of skills as opposed to offering opportunities for children to extend their knowledge of vocabulary and apply language creatively.

This software gives the teacher the tools to do both – and it gives children the inspiration to apply what they already know and what they have learnt through working with the beautiful illustrations and photographs.

Shoo Fly have made available all the resources a teacher could wish for, including a superb handbook, audio files, pictures, and interactive whiteboard files. The sophisticated, Gothic feel will appeal to students in upper primary and into secondary and boys will be hooked.

Well done Shoo Fly, you got it just right!



Angel Boy

**Ashley Wood, Advanced Skills Teacher (English) and Head of Year
Whitburn Church of England Comprehensive School, South Tyneside**

Angel Boy Connected Learning Resource is a flexible, innovative learning resource that I believe will be motivating for both teachers and pupils working throughout the secondary age -range. The high quality of the content is extrinsically motivating. The ideal is that pupils want to learn, the way in which the whole resource is conveyed will motivate them intrinsically too.

The material is accessible to all pupils. Pupils can develop activities adapting them to their personal perspective and therefore making them meaningful – adolescents are more motivated to succeed and the nature and quality of their learning is of a higher quality if the work is of value to them and seen from a personal meaningful level.

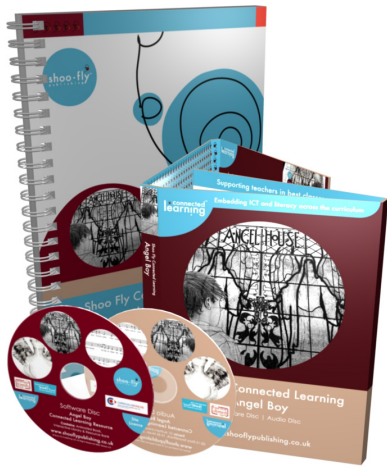
The teacher explains the process and the purpose behind the activities but not the outcome as the resource is open – ended. This allows the pupils to interpret the information and produce an outcome relevant to them. It can be used like a personal learning resource.

Creativity and innovation:

Angel Boy appeals to the senses. I am the kind of teacher who wants to 'feel' something inside when teaching and I try to convey this 'passion' to the pupils, from my point of view as a teacher, who directs learning in the classroom, it is inspirational.

The resource is diverse. It makes me curious and I also think that pupils' curiosity will be aroused, for example the abstract ideas within the resource are an effective method of engaging children. All pupils are different and learn in different ways. The delivery of the information can 'hook' the pupils in a variety of ways, for example visually, through audio and also kinaesthetically. This resource can positively impact the quality of their learning.

I immediately see cross-curricular possibilities – the role-model for example connecting Literacy to Citizenship to Music to Art and design and Media Studies. I believe young people learn when they have a role model they can relate to and the use for example of a boy's voice is inspirational.



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Seal Skull Literacy whiteboard activities offer the opportunity to split children into groups where every member of the group can become an expert in a particular area which will develop their sense of self – worth. If the pupils are taught how to use the whiteboard tools it would encourage pupils to become independent learners. The resource lends itself to project work - across subject areas - whole school. All children are good at something the key is to find out what and make their learning relevant to them as an individual.

The resource can be easily adapted by teachers to best suit the needs of their pupils. However the high quality handbook is very easy to follow. It is authentic and real – a resource that can help give the teacher the skills they need to engage pupils.

The resource educates children by placing learning within the context of the child's life. There are close links to the Every Child Matters agenda and at the end of the day the school is required to address the needs of each child. It has the capacity to reach out to all children who all bring their own emotional baggage into school but each can take something personal away.

Importance to teachers:

Time or the lack of it is a well voiced concern of teachers and the lack of high quality resources can sometimes be the consequence of other school based priorities. This resource could be used school wide, across each subject without the teacher having to spend 'extra time' preparing and planning.

Schools need to understand the importance of cross curricular learning to offer a coherent learning experience. This resource offers that opportunity even in the most reluctant of settings.

Conclusion:

The range of experts that have come together to create the resource is exceptional.

I would recommend that this resource is good value for money because of its far - reaching possibilities in creating an effective learning environment.