



School Project Case Study

Talking Textiles Project

Where? Clifton Green Primary School, York
Quilt Museum and Gallery

When? January 2009, January 2010 and
January 2011

Who with? Year 5 students

Total number of participants: 130 students
and teaching staff



In October 2008 the Quilt Museum and Gallery's newly appointed Education Officer selected Clifton Green Primary School as a partner school to assist in the development of workshops and activities at the Museum and with which to work on a school outreach initiative each year for the duration of the 'Unfolding the Quilts' project. Clifton Green is one of York's most economically and socially deprived areas and is targeted for partnership work in the Council's Local Area Agreement.



Above: Students with their 'Lady Daisy' Talking Textiles pieces that were sewn together into a fantastic wall hanging.

The 'Talking Textiles' Projects aimed to inspire and engage local school children with traditional textile techniques and provide a local school with the knowledge and confidence to include patchwork and quilting in not only Art but other curriculum areas, particularly Literacy.

www.quiltmuseum.org.uk
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Each year, the Education Officer and education volunteers have worked with Year 5 teachers, Miss Neville and Mr Binns, to develop an engaging series of cross-curricular outreach sessions with the aim of teaching the children traditional sewing, patchwork and quilting skills. The children then create their own artworks based on books they are reading in school. Working in groups, the students would discuss and design their artworks to meet a brief and then work as individuals to create elements of them. The students also had the opportunities to visit the Museum on several occasions, each time using the collections for inspiration for their own creative writing and designs.



Over the three years, the students have created textile banners, mini-quilts and class quilt books. At the start of each project many of the children involved had little or no experience sewing but at the end became proficient and confident crafters with imaginative ideas. The projects have also professionally developed the school and Museum staff involved, providing experience in teaching sometimes complex skills and ideas to a broad range of students, many with Special Education Needs and Language barriers.

The projects have helped the school gain an 'Outstanding' achievement level in their last three Ofsted Inspections, with Inspectors mentioning the partnership between the school and Museum as an example of best practice.

Right: Students proudly show off the 'Lady Daisy' books from Talking Textiles 2011. Each student hand-stitched their own chapter.

