

This Spring our class took time to learn about Barbara Reid. She is a wonderful Canadian author and illustrator who wrote stories like "The Subway Mouse," "Two by Two," and "Sing a Song of Bedtime." We took time to study her pictures and examine how she created her illustrations out of plasticine. Our class listened to many stories that she wrote and discussed what we liked about her illustrations and the many details she used and textures we observed in her artwork.

1K also learned about how she plans out her pictures with researching animals and plants and sketches before Barbara uses the clay to make her pictures. We also looked on the internet to see what kinds of pictures other kids have made using the same art medium.

Our class then brainstormed with a buddy ideas they would like to create with plasticine and how they would layer each colour to create a background and foreground in their picture. After this step, we sketched out a plan and coloured it with crayons to help us see what the final picture could look like.

To learn Barbara Reid's illustration techniques we visited her website and watched excellent tutorial videos of how she does each step in her pictures. We then followed her techniques and worked on our pictures in stages....First we created our background and carefully blended and smoothed out the clay to create sea, sky, or ground. The next day we worked on the more layers of our pictures and finally used various tools to create textures on the pictures for things like animal fur, tree bark, sand, and leaves.

Our pictures turned out so beautifully. We took time to share our pictures with each other and discussed ways we appreciated our artwork as well as our classmates. When the pictures were put up, I emailed Barbara Reid, thanking her for the wonderful stories she has written and illustrated, I also included some pictures of our class art work. I shared how her art work had inspired us to do such a good job on our art work. Two days later I received a personal email from Barbara Reid herself congratulating our class on the beautiful job we did and she commented on our fantastic blending techniques and textures we created in our pictures. She said these picture gave her inspiration to finish her new book coming out in the Fall with excellence. She also asked permission to show our artwork at future speaking engagements and to post these pictures on-line! We were so excited that our artwork inspired a famous author illustrator just like her work inspired us!

Thank you Barbara Reid for taking time out of your very busy schedule to write our grade one class personally. It really meant a lot to us!





Gavin



Ms. Kicker



Jaymie



Philp



Chloe



Tyler



Ethan



Joe



Avery



Logan



Alexis



Chloe



Jack



Irene



Jalen



Ashley



Hudson



Isabelle



Ross



Willow