

The Iron Man – Ted Hughes

This is an adventure story that is part science fiction and part fairy tale. It engages children from the first page; they follow the story of a young boy who feels sympathy for the Iron Man when a group of farmers rise up against him. The text is written using repetition and onomatopoeia and the text uses vivid imagery and poetic use of sound. It also carries a strong ecological message.

Key characters

The Iron Man – A gigantic, metal robot who appears out of nowhere and is very hungry

Hogarth – A young boy who becomes the robot's friend

Ted Hughes  
the Iron  
man



What we are going to do

When enjoying this book we will be:

- Third person narrative
- Introduction to onomatopoeia
- Sequencing events to encourage use of paragraphs

Key vocabulary

**Astronomer** – A scientist who studies stars

**Scrap metal** – Metal that is no longer of use as its original purpose that can be melted down and used again

**Farmer** – Someone whose job is to work with animals and/or crops

**Contest** – A competition

**Petroleum** – A liquid that powers engines

**Lament** – A meaningful expression of grief or sorrow

**Constellation** – A group of stars

**Silhouette** – The shape of something seen when a bright light shines on it

**Girders** – Metal planks or beams

**Jolt** – Push or shake suddenly

The Iron Man by Ted Hughes is being used in Years 3 and 4 this year; it is a much loved book that shows the importance of friendship and loyalty. Ted Hughes uses onomatopoeia and sounds throughout the book, his descriptions are well written and he builds tension to keep children guessing what will happen next. Children will be encouraged to use words and phrases that Huges uses; which means their writing will mature and be more interesting. They will explore themes of recycling and looking after our planet as well as using the illustrations to learn how to shade using hatching and cross-hatching in Art.