

Objectives

- Monday

Explore the meaning of words in context

- Tuesday

Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction

Teaching

Monday

Remind the children that our author of the term is Katherine Rundell. Read through the text and investigate the meaning of words that the children are not sure of. Children to underline whilst teacher is reading text. Record definitions in book.

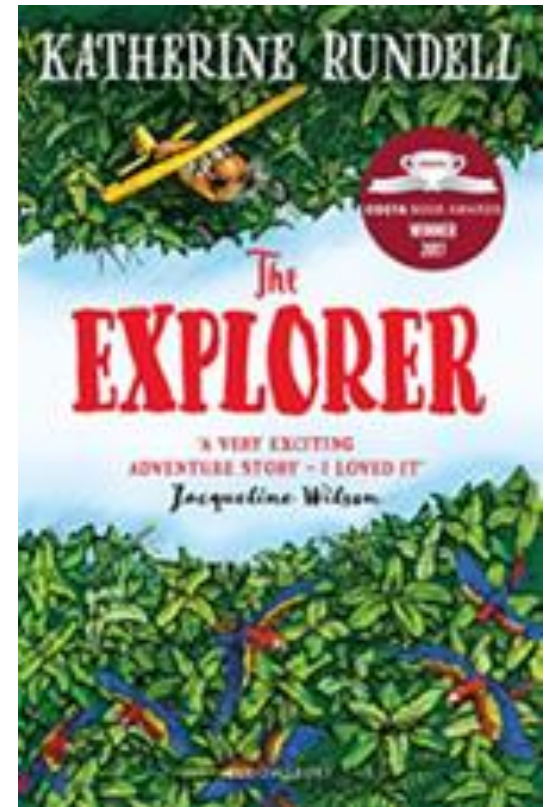
Tuesday

Read back through the text with a partner. Make notes on all the different things that happened in Katherine's life which contributed to her writing *The Explorer* and improved her knowledge of the Amazon which she could then use in her book.

Monday 10th January

LO: Words in context

Katherine Rundell



Katherine Rundell was low on money when she won the Waterstones prize for children's fiction for her novel *Rooftoppers*. The £5,000 that came with the award meant the young author could afford tickets to the Amazon to research a new novel, *The Explorer* – a book that landed her the prestigious Costa children's books prize, won in the past by giants of the genre from Roald Dahl to Philip Pullman.

“I was not making a fortune from my fiction,” she explains. She was also doing a master’s and then a PhD at Oxford and some teaching. “But I knew I wanted to write a book set in the Amazon. I’d wanted to go since I was tiny. I read Willard Price and this fabulous book called *The Lost City of Z* [by David Grann], and then this glorious book by Eva Ibbotson, *Journey to the River Sea*.”

So she and her then boyfriend flew to Brazil and from Manaus “we took a little boat, and then a smaller boat, and then an even smaller boat which was only big enough for three people, down a tributary of the Amazon. It remains the most staggeringly beautiful thing I’ve ever seen in my life. It was just astonishing.”

A guide took them into the jungle, showed them ways to survive – how to eat cocoa moth grubs, find pineapples, catch piranhas and tarantulas. “We spent quite a lot of time hiking through the rainforest itself, which was beautiful and fascinatingly discombobulating. It shakes you a little bit, to be so aware of being somewhere which is not your element. Our guide said: ‘Point west’, and usually I would be able to do that from the sun. And then he said, after about 10 minutes of walking, which was a bit more frightening, ‘Point to where the boat is.’ And I was in absolutely the wrong direction.”

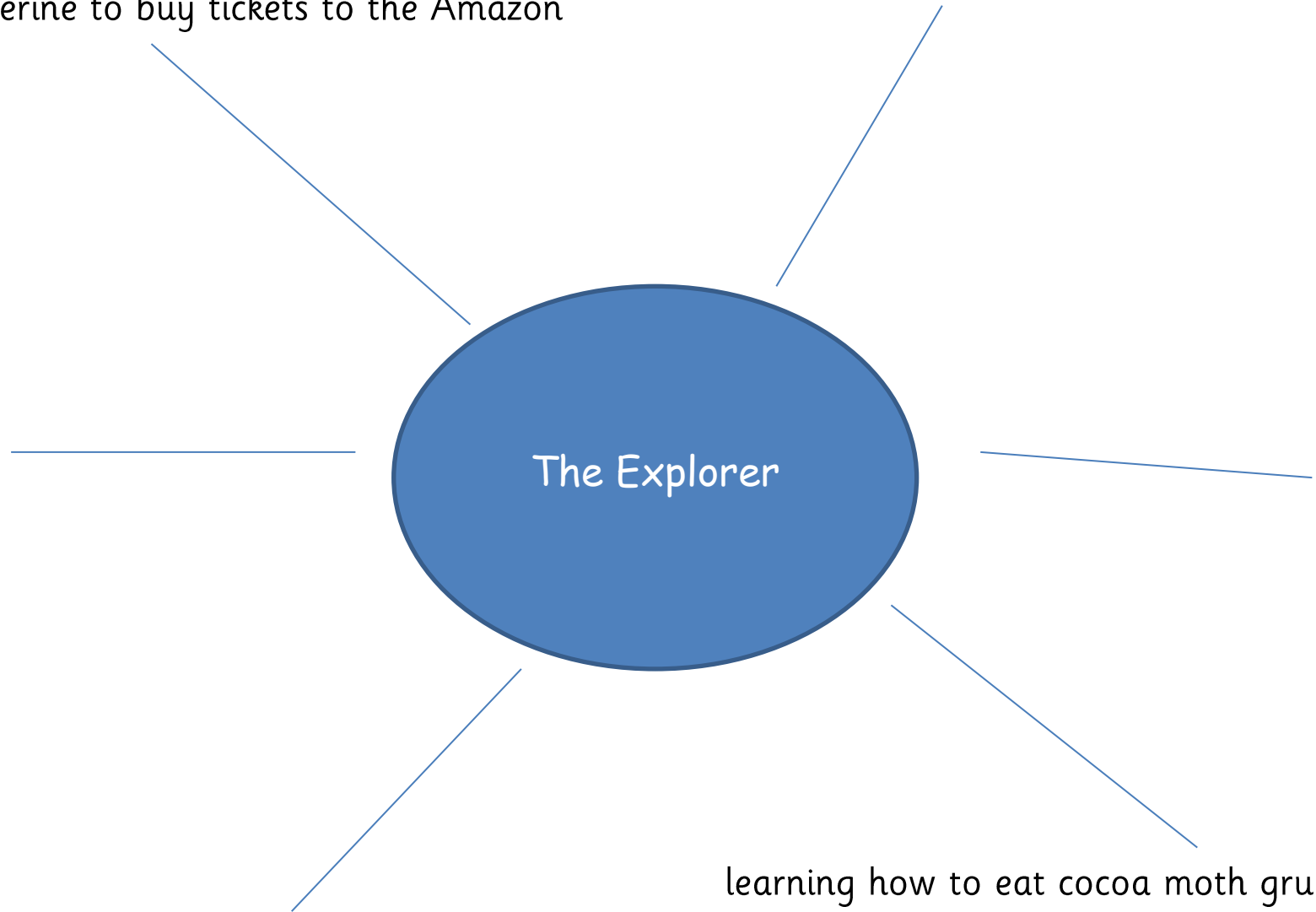
It was that sense of being utterly lost that gave Rundell the idea for *The Explorer*.

- prestigious
- genre
- tributary
- staggeringly
- discombobulating
- utterly

Tuesday 11th January

LO: Retrieval

winning £5000 which helped
Katherine to buy tickets to the Amazon



learning how to eat cocoa moth grubs