

Dreaming of freedom



*You start as an egg
Trapped in a tank,
Dreaming of freedom
By the riverbank.*



a river running over gravel

Hatching and survival rates this year are looking very good! Across the 6 schools Steve and I have visited so far, most of the eggs have already hatched and the fish are growing fast, stretching from alevins into fry and looking bold and impressive in their black and brown stripes.

Each school in this [Ribble Rivers Trust](#) project has an aquarium with refrigerating units to keep its water river-bed cold. Each school took delivery of 100 brown trout eggs at the start of term with the intention of raising their fry to fingerling stage before releasing them into local rivers in March.

*Do it for us,
Do it for us,
Don't give up,
Do it for us!*

River in the classroom 2015



*You're growing so fast,
Now it's time to go,
King of the river,
Just go with the flow*



some very craggy rapids

Working with the hatching, raising and release process to inspire different creative expressions. We have written long collective poems, made individual card-sculpture rivers, written smaller poems, created aquatic soundscapes and written dramatic songs in praise of our heroic little fish.

I am always impressed by how engaged the children are with their tiny charges. Here are animals who are only passing through, who the children cannot handle, stroke or cuddle, and usually do not even feed (needs restraint, so often a staff role!) but who have still wriggled their fishy way into young affections, provoking thought and reflection

*Be careful, my friend.
There's danger out there
Beware of the heron,
You'd better take care.*



water flows over folds and closures in a folding river

At [Cliviger](#) on Thursday, our fishy work was attended, surprisingly, by several Oliver Twists, a clutch of Red Riding Hoods (clutch? cluster? gossip? pack?). The various Blind Mice were not at all hindered by their condition, or unbalanced by their lack of tails and even BBW joined in, setting aside hunger and grandmother outfits, to sing next to his (anticipated) lunch. It was World Book Day

(Coming soon: the recording of the Cliviger Trout Song!)

River in the classroom 2015



Steve Brown leads the Character Company in song

*Keep calm and swim on,
You'll meet a new friend,
A new life begins,
Around the next bend.*



Many thanks to the artists, storytellers and musicians of St John's C of E Primary School

St John's C of E Primary, Burnley

with artists

Creeping Toad and Steve Brown