

# STRATFORD CITYSCAPES

PARKHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL, LONDON

10–11 year-olds

## TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We started our project by visiting the National Gallery, where we looked carefully at the painting and practised sketching. Back at school, we researched the painting and decided to explore the themes of wealth and poverty. We went out into our local area, which is currently being redeveloped, and the children were shocked to see people living on the street next to expensive new buildings. There was also a big difference between the new buildings and the older ones. We sketched the different buildings around us and used these drawings to create paintings which show different views of Stratford.

VISUAL ART LEAD

*'We put the different views of Stratford into our paintings to make sure they showed rich and poor like Men of the Docks.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





# SOUNDWAVE CITYSCAPES

RAMSGATE ART PRIMARY SCHOOL, KENT

9–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

After discussing the painting and asking lots of questions, we decided to focus on what the docks might have sounded like. We imagined what the men would have been able to hear, including seagulls screeching, foghorns blaring and horses neighing. We recorded our own dockland sounds and worked on laptops using audio software to create soundscapes. We noticed that the waveform patterns created by the sounds looked like cityscapes. Then, using acrylic paint in black, blue and white we created backgrounds for them. We copied the waveforms onto laminating pouches and placed our painted backgrounds inside.

YEAR 6 TEACHER

*'The colours in the background of our artwork are the colours we could see in the painting.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## CERAMIC SKYSCRAPERS

HEADLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
NORTHAMPTON

8–9 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We were inspired by the skyscrapers in the background of the painting. The children were interested in them because they are such a recognisable part of New York. We started our project by creating sketches of the skyscrapers and focusing on finding interesting details using a viewfinder. We then created prints from our drawings, before moving on to using clay. We worked with an artist in residence to shape the ceramic skyscrapers and used glazes inspired by the colour palette of the painting. We enjoyed learning about how to create texture in clay by using indentation and relief work.

HEADTEACHER

*'I learnt how to create texture  
and shape using clay.'*

STUDENT, AGED 8





## HORSE BRASSES

CAROLINE CHISHOLM SCHOOL,  
NORTHAMPTON

10–11 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

After carefully studying the painting, the children focused on the two horses. They noticed that the horses were wearing bridles and wanted to find out more about this. They discovered that horses often wore brasses on their bridles for decoration and as symbols of protection.

The children sketched and designed their own brasses, before making them out of clay. They developed their design skills and had to focus on problem-solving when transferring the designs to clay.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND ART SPECIALISTS

*'I learnt how to do pencil shading  
to make my work look 3D.'*

STUDENT, AGED 11





## THE URBAN DOCKLAND

DARRICK WOOD INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL,  
KENT

4–5 year-olds

## TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

Our Reception classes created a modern version of *Men of the Docks* based on London. We explored floating and sinking, and conducted experiments to see what would make ice melt the fastest. We made boats from tin foil and learnt an acrylic pouring method to create an icy background. The children also learnt about how skyscrapers are built and we made our own using different materials. To understand more about the work that the men did on the docks, we put on protective clothing and transported wooden crates around in the playground. The bronze clock was added to represent the rising sun and the passing of time.

HEAD OF ART

*'I really like the picture because we get to do lots of fun things and learn about the dockworkers.'*

STUDENT, AGED 5





# BUILDING NEW YORK

GLENDOWER PREPARATORY SCHOOL, LONDON

7–11 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We ran a whole-school *Take One Picture* week which saw every student and teacher focussing on the painting. After studying the picture closely, our art club decided that they would like to concentrate on the skyscrapers and the city of New York. They were inspired by the idea that early skyscrapers were being constructed when Bellows was painting and compared the city then to the modern city we find today. We looked at a big map of New York and drew our own version, before building the city from recycled materials.

HEAD OF HUMANITIES AND ART TEACHER

*'The painting showed the first skyscrapers so we wanted to create New York like today.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





# BOAT COLLAGES

WELLINGTON PREP SCHOOL, SOMERSET

5–6 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

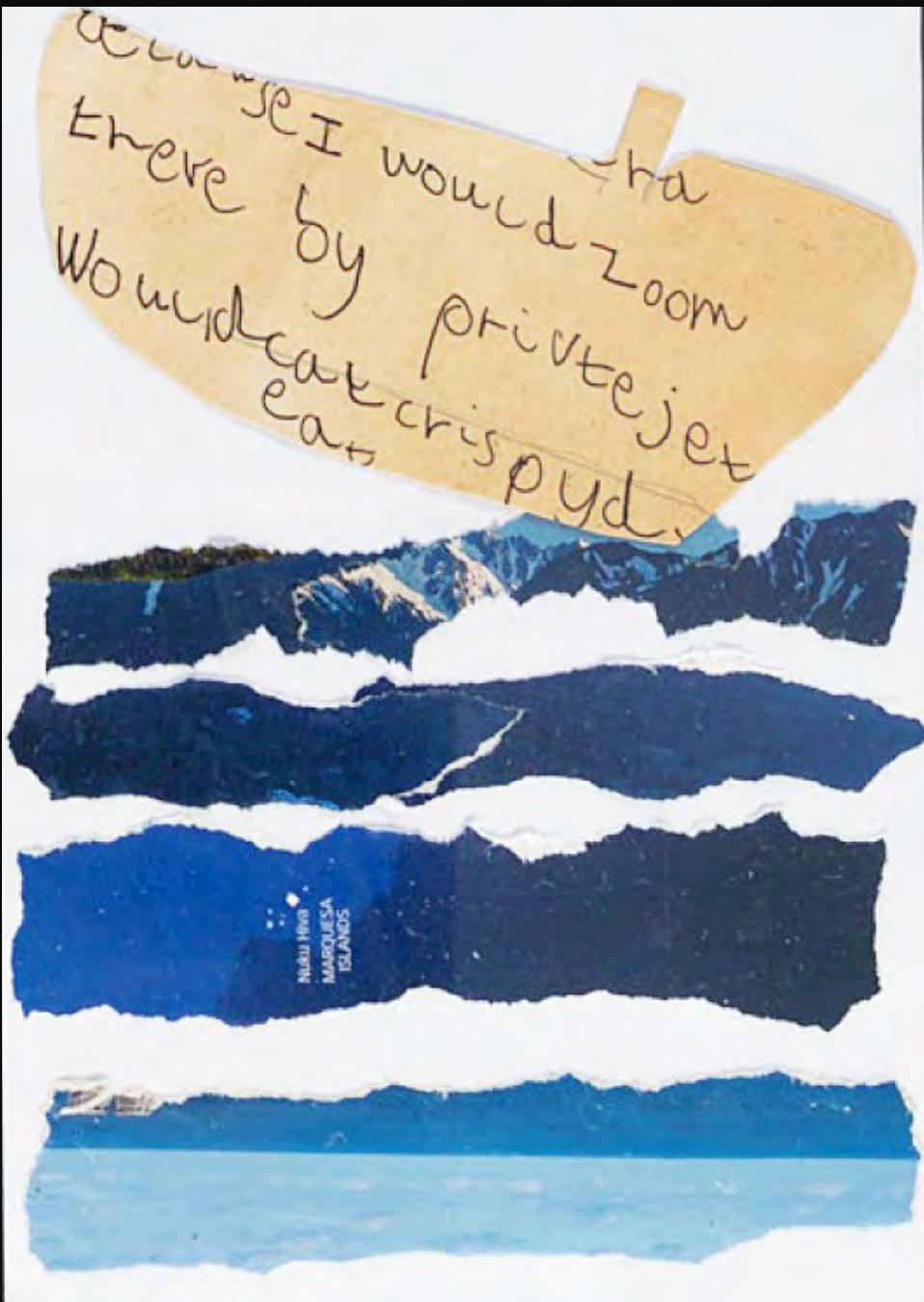
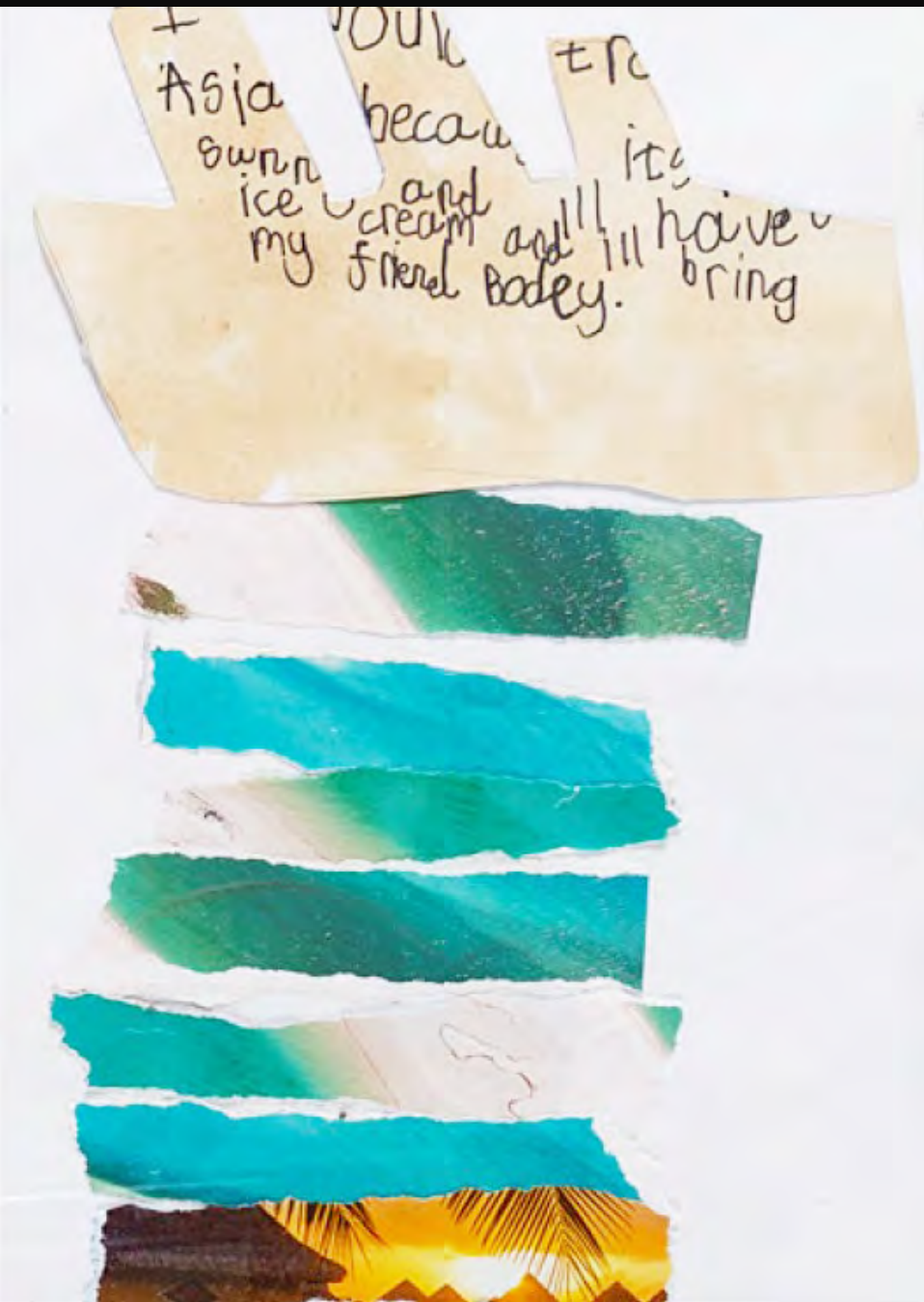
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We started by drawing and making our own versions of the painting using collage. We worked in pairs and noticed that the painting uses a limited colour palette, so we only used five colours. The children then came up with lots of questions about the scene and we focused on the boats and the sea. We wrote about where we would like to travel and cut out our writing in the shape of boats. We then found different shades of blue in magazines and carefully ripped out strips of colour to make the sea.

YEAR 1 TEACHERS

*'I enjoyed making the boat and making the water all bumpy.'*

STUDENT, AGED 6





## WORKMAN'S JACKET

ST MARY'S SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD,  
LONDON

8–10 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We were inspired by the dockworkers' clothes and linked this with our wider school topic of sustainability. We discussed hard-wearing fabrics and how the men would have mended their jackets to make them last a long time. From this, we then decided to make our own workman's jacket. We took scraps of fabric outside and rubbed them against rough surfaces to create holes, imagining how the men's clothes might have worn at the elbows and knees. We learnt how to patch the holes and sewed all of the pieces together. To finish, we wrote poems about how the men might have been feeling and added them to the lining.

HEAD OF ART AND DT

*'I enjoyed sewing the holes up  
and I think I got better at it.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## DOCKLAND POSES

RAMSGATE ART PRIMARY SCHOOL, KENT

7–8 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

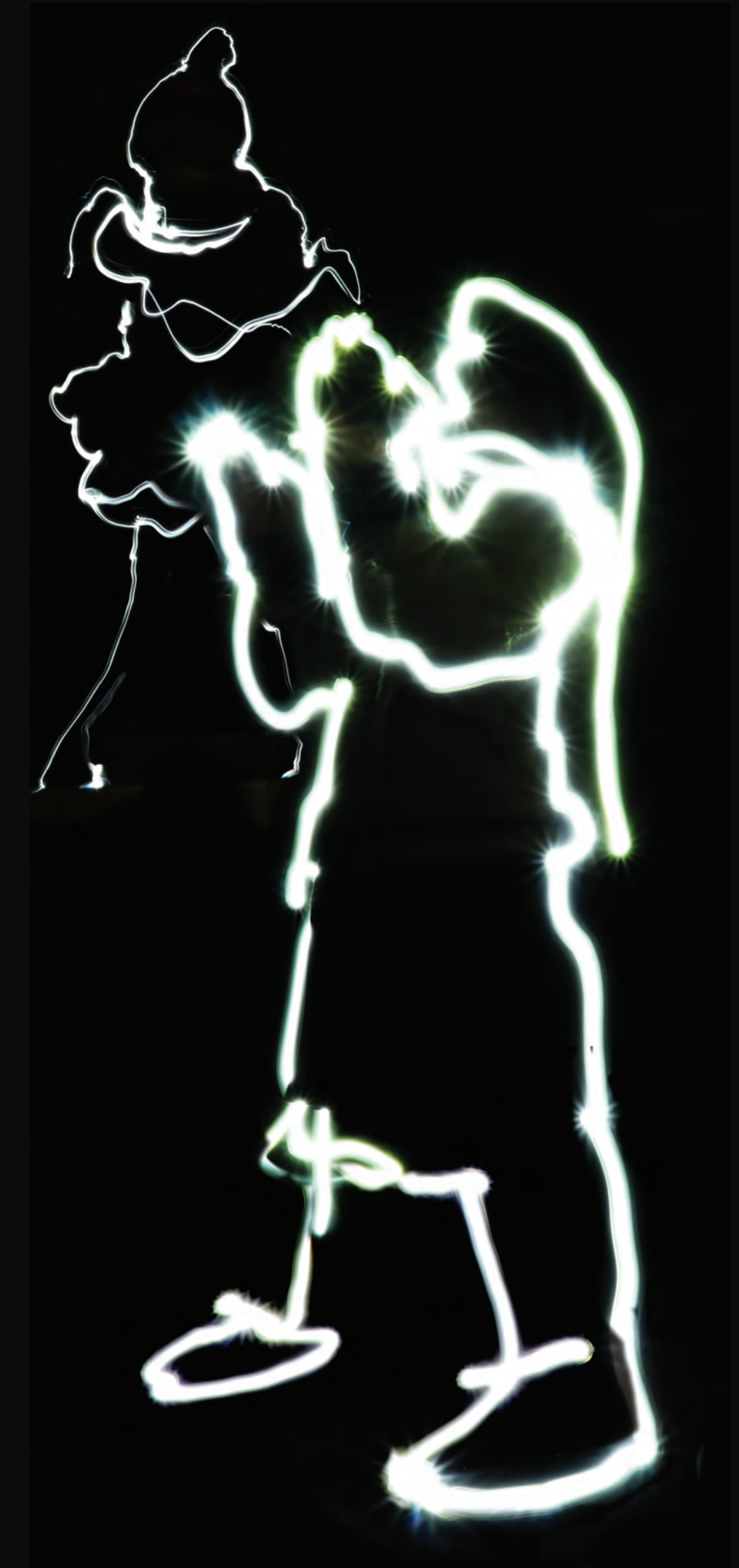
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

The children were fascinated by the idea that the men in the painting would arrive each day not knowing whether there would be work for them. This prompted discussions about the types of work that the men would do at the docks. We visited our local marina to find out more and had a drama session creating freeze-frames of different tasks, such as unloading heavy boxes, sweeping the decks and making repairs. The children froze in their chosen poses and took turns to 'draw' around each other using a variety of torches. We captured the images using a camera set on a slow shutter speed.

ART TEACHER

*'We had fun making the poses.  
The pictures look really good and  
I can tell which one's mine because  
of the outline.'*

STUDENT, AGED 8





## PORTHOLES

RECTORY FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
NORTHAMPTON

8–9 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

The children were inspired by the theme of immigration and the journeys that people would have taken to reach New York. Through drama and writing we explored how an immigrant might have felt when leaving home for the first time and going on this journey. We then learnt about the steam ships that would have transported the people and decided to make portholes showing sights they might have seen on the voyage. We used a collage technique to make both the porthole frame and the image inside, before adding sections of our writing.

CLASS TEACHER

*'I enjoyed using the papier mâché technique and moulding the gold paper around the porthole frame.'*

STUDENT, AGED 8





## HORSE BUNTING

TUDOR C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUFFOLK

5–7 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

The children wanted to know more about the horses in the picture: what they were doing at the docks and how they should be looked after. We did lots of research about horses and recorded our findings in information booklets. As our town has a long history of manufacturing textiles, we were also interested in the different materials that would have been used around the docks. We decided to make bunting and learnt how to do a running stitch. We sewed our horses onto hessian because we learnt that the men would have carried hessian sacks from the ships.

CLASS TEACHER

*'The tricky part was when I was doing the sewing because the thread kept coming out of the eye of the needle.'*

STUDENT, AGED 6





## WORKING ANIMALS

DOWNSHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESSEX

8–9 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We began our project by investigating the different tones in the painting. All of the children were able to recreate the tones by cross-hatching on tracing paper.

The class were really interested in the horses in the painting; many hadn't come across working animals before and wanted to learn more. We arranged for visits from the Royal National Institute of Blind People and the local police to show us how animals still help us today. One visitor spoke about his important relationship with his guide dog, and the children interviewed the police about their horses.

We finished our project by painting pictures of the visits, using the cross-hatching technique we had learnt.

HEAD OF YEAR 4

*'I didn't know that people worked with animals anymore.'*

STUDENT, AGED 9





## A WELCOMING TEA PARTY

PRESTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDON

7–8 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Just like the men in the painting, many children at our school have connections to other countries. Some are second or third generation immigrants and others have recently arrived. We thought about the difficulties of moving to a new country and how we could welcome someone who had just arrived. As drinking tea is typically British (even though tea itself comes from abroad) we decided to make a tea set, table and chairs to host a welcoming tea party.

The decoration includes dotted lines representing the journeys made by children's families, countries of origin, family names and photographs. When the children's families came to see our project, they brought in sweet treats from around the world for us all to enjoy together.

ART TEACHER AT PRESTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'I just loved it, especially making the teapot.'*

STUDENT, AGED 8





## A CAREFUL CARGO

IDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, EXETER

4–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

The painting inspired us to investigate the transport of goods around the world. We discovered that wine barrels used to arrive locally at Exeter Quay and that wine bottles were made nearby in Glass House Lane! The children suggested that they could paint glass bottles with their favourite images from the picture. One child was concerned that glass breaks easily, so we needed to protect it, inspiring the idea for our carefully packaged cargo.

The children in Reception painted plastic baubles to represent the painting's atmospheric colours and the ship's journey, Year 1 wove the blanket, Years 2 and 3 built the crate, Years 3 and 4 created decoupage globes to represent trade routes, and Year 5 visited a glass factory and painted their chosen bottles.

CLASS TEACHER AND ART SUBJECT LEAD

*'I really enjoyed visiting Dartington Glass Factory. Watching them blow the glass was mesmerising.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## A SEA OF FACES

STOKE BISHOP C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
BRISTOL

7–8 year-olds

## TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We explored what it might have been like for those moving to America in 1912. We found an old photograph of people arriving in New York on a ship and the children were fascinated by who they might have been. We discussed how people on the crowded ship would have been surrounded by people speaking languages they didn't understand. We wanted to experience what this might have been like, so we asked members of the school community to speak to us in all the different languages they knew. Each child imagined the backstory of an immigrant, historical or contemporary, and sketched a portrait of them before making a cardboard sculpture to add to our *Sea of Faces* installation.

YEAR 3 TEACHERS

*'It made me feel curious to find out more about the men at the docks and who they were. I wanted to find out more about the artist too.'*

STUDENT, AGED 8





## LETTERS HOME

MAB'S CROSS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
LANCASHIRE

9–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Our children were interested in the lives of the dockworkers, who were often immigrants who had travelled to America in hope of living the 'American Dream'. We visited the Liverpool Maritime Museum to research their journeys and to find out what life would have been like once they arrived. Back at school, the children planned individual dockworkers' stories of success and failure, happiness and sorrow, before composing heartfelt letters from the dockworkers to family and friends back home. The letters and envelopes were created from coffee-stained papers and personalised with handmade stamps and postmarks.

ARTS AND CULTURE LEAD

*'I enjoyed making the origami envelopes (I've made loads since) and making the backstory to the person writing the letter.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## CHANGING HAMMERSMITH FRIEZE

WEST LONDON FREE SCHOOL PRIMARY,  
LONDON

9–10 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We noticed that *Men of the Docks* shows a changing city. We were interested in how New York was growing in 1912 and the pollution this growth caused. This got us thinking about our own city and we researched how our area has changed over the last 100 years. We sketched local buildings from the school rooftop and used our drawings to make polystyrene blocks from which our buildings were then printed. We created the sky by marbling paper to show pollution and included local maps. We decided it was most effective to display our work as a long frieze.

ART TEACHER

*'Hammersmith has changed so much in the last 100 years – there used to be fields around the river!'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## WOODEN DOCKLAND PANELS

STIVICHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL, COVENTRY

4–5 year-olds

## TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We approached the picture with a focus on materials: those that we could see in the painting or materials that would have been used at the docks. We discussed the concrete city, metal ships and wooden cargo crates. We used our woodwork area outside to explore different techniques such as sawing, hammering, using a vice, and joining materials. The children soon decided that they would like to make their own version of the painting using wood. We collected different natural objects during outside play and each of the three classes used their materials to create one of the vertical panels.

RECEPTION CLASS TEACHERS

*'The boat, horses and men were what I noticed in the picture.'*

STUDENT, AGED 5





# CARDBOARD SKYSCRAPERS

WELLINGTON PREP SCHOOL, SOMERSET

6–7 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children enjoyed talking about the buildings in the painting and wanted to make their own. We thought about what materials can be used to make buildings, before deciding to use cardboard. The children wrote letters to local shops asking them to donate their boxes. To make the skyscrapers, they carefully joined, cut and attached sections of cardboard. They then covered the structures with newspaper and added further details. We didn't paint the boxes, because the text reminded us of graffiti and we felt that the colours complemented the painting. Through this project the children learnt how to make stable structures and nets for 3D shapes.

YEAR 2 TEACHERS

*'My skyscraper is good because it is nice and tall.'*

STUDENT, AGED 6





# PORTHOLES AND BANNERS

GEORGE BETTS PRIMARY ACADEMY,  
WEST MIDLANDS

4–11 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We started our project by using a variety of pencils to create drawings from the painting. The children then decided that they would like to focus on boats and portholes. We looked at the different materials boats are made of and investigated weathering and rusting. By experimenting with marbling and dyes, we were able to create the effect of a ship's oil on water for our banners. We then included our original drawings by using image transfer, embroidering them onto circles and attaching them to our portholes and banners.

ART TEACHER AND HIGHER LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT

*'I've never seen anything do that  
before, it's amazing!'*

STUDENT, AGED 11





# MEN OF THE DOCKS' WHISPERS

CLEVELAND ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
ESSEX

9–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Year 5 brainstormed different ways they could respond to the painting, including writing about the men's feelings, jobs and working animals. They decided that their project would be a 3D interpretation of the painting, with speech bubbles giving the men voices to tell us their stories and thoughts. The children used various materials including cardboard, fabric, cotton wool and clay. They also learnt a new technique for joining clay called 'slip and score' which involves scoring the clay and making a mixture of finely ground clay and water to stick the pieces together.

CLASS TEACHER

*'I really liked making clay models because we had to put them in a shape, stick them with clay glue and see if they could stand.'*

STUDENT, AGED 9





# NEW YORK SKYLINE AND SUSPENDED SHIPS

RGS THE GRANGE, WORCESTER

9–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We began by looking at the New York skyline. The children sketched the buildings and looked at how they could simplify the shapes. They learnt how to make printing blocks from polystyrene and used them with ink. They created their own printed buildings in colours inspired by the painting and arranged them to make a skyline. Next, we discussed ships of the time and, of course, the *Titanic*. We found images of other ships from 1912 and recreated them using balsa wood. Inspired by Hew Locke's artwork, *Suspended Armada*, we decided to hang our ships in front of our skyline.

HEAD OF ART AND HEAD OF DT

*'I really enjoyed making the boats because I learnt new skills and we were able to use our imagination.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





7–11 year-olds

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

## HEADTEACHER

STUDENT, AGED 8





## SPONGE AND ROLLER PORTRAITS

LITTLE HALLINGBURY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
ESSEX

5–7 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We focused on the men in the picture. Looking at the painting online, we used the zoom tool to see how their faces had been painted using only a few marks and slashes of paint. We made our own versions of the portraits by using different types of tools, such as rollers and sponges, to create a similar effect. We tried to keep the texture left by the rollers and concentrated on mixing different tones to give the faces light and shade. We didn't give the men smiley faces because they are working hard to feed their families.

CLASS TEACHER

*'I think the men had a hard life lifting  
all the heavy things onto the carts.'*

STUDENT, AGED 5





## HATS OF HOPE OR HATS OF HOPELESSNESS?

THE PRIORY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
LONDON

6–7 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Children in Year 2 were interested in the dockworkers waiting for work. They imagined how the men would feel if they got work that day compared to how they would feel if they didn't. The children looked at the men's facial expressions and then noticed that all of the men were wearing hats. The children soon decided to make their own hats showing the emotions that could be running through the men's heads. Are they feeling hopeful or hopeless? We used ModRoc (plaster of Paris bandages) to create the structure of the hats around balloons and added labels to show the different emotions.

CLASS TEACHERS

*'I enjoyed doing Take One Picture because the picture comes alive in your brain.'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





## OUR MEN OF THE DOCKS

SS PETER AND PAUL RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
TYNE AND WEAR

10–11 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We noticed that the painting is made up of blocks of colour, so we decided to make collages. One child came up with the idea of making a collage of the painting out of photographs of our local waterfront. We visited North East Maritime Trust Museum to learn more about what life would have been like on the local docks, then we walked along the beach and had a trip on the ferry. We split into groups and each took photographs focusing on a particular colour. Back at school, we recreated *Men of the Docks* representing our local area.

DEPUTY HEAD AND YEAR 6 TEACHER

*'I never thought that the art project would turn out so well. I love how if you go close up you can see South Shields, where we live.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## DOCKWORKERS' SHOES

ST MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
LUTON

7–8 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE  
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children enjoyed discussing the human aspect of the painting. In particular, we looked at the implied poverty and thought about the men's living conditions. Although we couldn't see their shoes, we felt that they may not be good enough to protect their feet from the snow and ice.

The children used ModRoc (plaster of Paris bandages) moulded around their bare feet to make shoes standing in line waiting for work. This gave them the opportunity to 'feel' the painting.

CLASS TEACHERS

*'It makes my feet feel funny,  
it's slimy!'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





## OUR 'FIRST THOUGHTS' DRAWINGS

SS PETER AND PAUL RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
TYNE AND WEAR

4–5 year-olds

## TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We started our Reception class project by listening to a *Men of the Docks* soundscape made by the National Gallery. We imagined what we could hear and wrote our ideas on the whiteboard. We heard a ship's horn, horses, wind, waves and men shouting. When we looked at the painting for the first time, we recorded our first thoughts in a collaborative class book. We discussed what we could see and also created collages of the painting. To finish our project, we visited South Shields Museum to take part in a workshop learning more about the lives of people who worked on the docks.

CLASS TEACHER

*'I think I've worked it out!  
The blue bit, it's the water!'*

STUDENT, AGED 5





## IMPORT AND EXPORT, 1912 AND 2019

ST MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, LUTON

9–10 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children in Year 5 focused on the ship in the painting. We wondered what type of cargo might have been on the ship and what would have been imported and exported from the UK in 1912. We decided to make our own ship, showing cargo from 1912 at the bottom and 2019 on top. We researched the different types of cargo from then and now, and recorded our findings. We made our ship using balsa wood and used our DT skills to add the hinged doors. The modern cargo includes containers, a helicopter and cars, whereas the 1912 cargo includes coal, coffee and bananas.

CLASS TEACHERS

*'It was really fascinating learning  
the imports and exports.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





# CLAY MEN OF THE DOCKS

GRANGE PARK SCHOOL, KENT

A SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF ASC  
(AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITION)

11–13 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

After analysing the painting by asking lots of questions, we all chose something in the picture that inspired us and practised drawing and painting these elements. We particularly looked at colour, tone, light and shade. After seeing some clay figurines, we were inspired to make our own based on the men in the painting, paying close attention to their body language. We modelled the clay, before firing the figurines in a kiln. We chose acrylic paints in colours inspired by the picture and used them in a painterly style (showing brush strokes and texture) to finish our very own men of the docks.

ART TEACHER

*'I think that the man walking away will not get any money.'*

STUDENT, AGED 12





## FAMILY IMMIGRATION INTERVIEWS

KENMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDON

7–8 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE  
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We looked at the George Bellows painting and the question we started to ask was: 'Who are these people and why are they there?' This led us on to the theme of immigration and why people travel to new countries. One child said that their mum came to the UK from Japan and we quickly realised that lots of children had families who had come to London from all around the world. However, many students did not know why their parents or grandparents had moved to London, so we recorded the children asking their families about their experiences.

YEAR 3 CLASS TEACHER

*'I really enjoyed interviewing my dad, especially listening to all the stories he told. I hadn't really heard some of them before and I was surprised!'*

STUDENT, AGED 9

*'I like that it has many people from different parts of the world'*

*'When did you come to London?'*

*'What was it like coming to England for the first time?'*

*'I immigrated to this country by fleeing a civil war'*



## HORSE INFORMATION BOOKLETS

TUDOR C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUFFOLK

5–7 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children wanted to find out more about the horses in the painting. They developed some questions about horses, before reading non-fiction books to research and find the answers. They used what they had learnt to create their own non-fiction books about horses and added subheadings and contents pages to help their readers find information quickly. In art class, they learnt how to draw horses accurately and made horse-themed bunting. They applied these new skills to help them illustrate their books.

CLASS TEACHER

*'There are two beautiful horses  
that are the colour of white snow.'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





## TONAL DRAWINGS

KINGSWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL, HERTFORDSHIRE

9–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The picture was introduced to the pupils in each class, where questioning and discussion took place. Year 5 were interested in the tones in the painting, and we challenged ourselves to create varied tones and shades to represent the painting's texture. We learnt how to vary the tones using pencil and pressure, and we had to be very careful to make sure that we were creating lots of tones and not just all the same shade of grey. We also investigated light, shade and perspective through our drawings.

ART AND DT SUBJECT LEADER

*'We had to work on our tone and how light/hard we pressed on the pencil. We also looked at the shading and where the light is.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





We explored the painting through description and role-play. We learnt about the working conditions on the docks and found out that workers sang songs to keep them in time and motivated, so we decided to write our own. We listened to examples of work songs and heard that they had rhythm, rhyme and a repeated refrain. We wrote verses in small groups and made sure to include these elements. To perform our song, we came up with accompanying actions and used props to help us get into character.

CLASS TEACHERS

*'I think this would be a good work song for them because it has a good rhythm.'*

STUDENT, AGED 6

## 'WE ARE THE MEN ON THE DOCKS' WORK SONG

ST MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
LUTON

5–6 year-olds

Money for our families!

Money in the companies!

We are the Men on the Docks.

What a very long day,

We would like to sail away,

We are the Men on the Docks.

Buildings; gigantic, shiny and yellow

Waiting in the white snow

We are the Men on the Docks.

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE  
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS



# ELLIS ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHS

RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDON

10–11 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
*MEN OF THE DOCKS*

We learnt that people arriving in New York in 1912 would have gone through the immigration inspection station on Ellis Island. We looked at photographs taken on Ellis Island and the children were fascinated by the huge variety of nationalities and situations the new arrivals would have encountered. We saw doctors performing medical checks, volunteers handing out food and tired families arriving after a long journey at sea. We decided to recreate these photos in composition, form and emotion expressed, imagining ourselves experiencing the same fear, exhaustion and hope.

ART SPECIALIST TEACHER AND YEAR 6 CLASS TEACHERS

*'I found it really challenging to get the right facial expression to show how tired and scared my character was.'*

STUDENT, AGED 10





## PORTRAITS AND PASSPORTS

REDLANDS NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

8–9 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Year 4 were moved to learn more about the experiences of families moving to New York in 1912. We discovered what it might have been like to arrive in Brooklyn via Ellis Island and become a dockworker. We explored these ideas through drama and role play, and developed our own characters. We then decided to draw portraits of our characters and make them their own passports. The golden lines across the pages of the passports are like a diary, illustrating the highs and lows of the workers' emotions as they arrive in America and start their new lives.

ARTS COORDINATOR

*'I think my character would be delighted to see all the visitors' faces staring back at him.'*

STUDENT, AGED 9





# ACROSTIC POEMS AND DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

OAKWOOD SCHOOL, SURREY

8–11 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE  
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We took a cross-curricular approach to the project involving children from the whole school. Our pupils studied the painting during Art, English and History lessons. Our Year 4 children focused on descriptive writing and acrostic poems inspired by the painting. The children were encouraged to imagine being one of the characters in the painting, thinking about their life and the wider social life of the day. These pieces were written by children in Year 4 and read by children in Year 6.

CLASS TEACHERS

*'I found the painting very sad, the dull day looked filled with melancholy and hard-working men that supported their families.'*

STUDENT, AGED 9

Moments of boredom  
Electric lights flashing  
Nothing is as boring as this

Often hearing waves lapping in the background  
Foghorn constantly honking

Thinking what happens next  
Hoping I can get to work sooner or later  
Epic work the men are doing

Daydreaming every minute 'til my part happens  
On top of me I can see the birds flying  
Checking my watch every now and then  
Kicking the rocks into the sea for entertainment  
Sending messages to the workers



## SUITCASE SASHES

KINGSWOOD PARKS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HULL

7–8 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children in Year 3 thought about how far the men in the painting may have had to travel to get to New York. We looked at journey distances in Geography and discussed what they would have brought with them. We wondered how they would keep track of their suitcases and thought how they might have needed personalised labels or sashes to identify them. We imagined that we were going on our own journeys and decided to make sashes for our suitcases. The children designed personalised sashes and then used cotton, felt and buttons to make them.

ART COORDINATOR

*'Sewing is great fun! I have enjoyed making my sash because it has objects on it that are special to me.'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





BILLY THE PONY

KINGSWAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
WARWICKSHIRE

6–7 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We were interested in the horses in the painting and what their role at the dockyard would have been. We asked a local livery owner to visit the school with her pony, Billy, and the children had the opportunity to make sketches and ask questions. In Maths, we learnt about measuring horses, in Science we labelled the parts of a horse and in Computing we explored horse care websites. We also noticed that the horses in the painting were wearing blinkers to restrict their view. Our final piece is made up of collages showing the frozen, muddy ground that the horses would have seen, and portraits of Billy.

ART SUBJECT LEAD

*'I learnt that in the past they used horses for carrying heavy loads and pulling canal boats.'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





## 'RAGS TO RICHES' ANIMATION

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDON

8–9 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

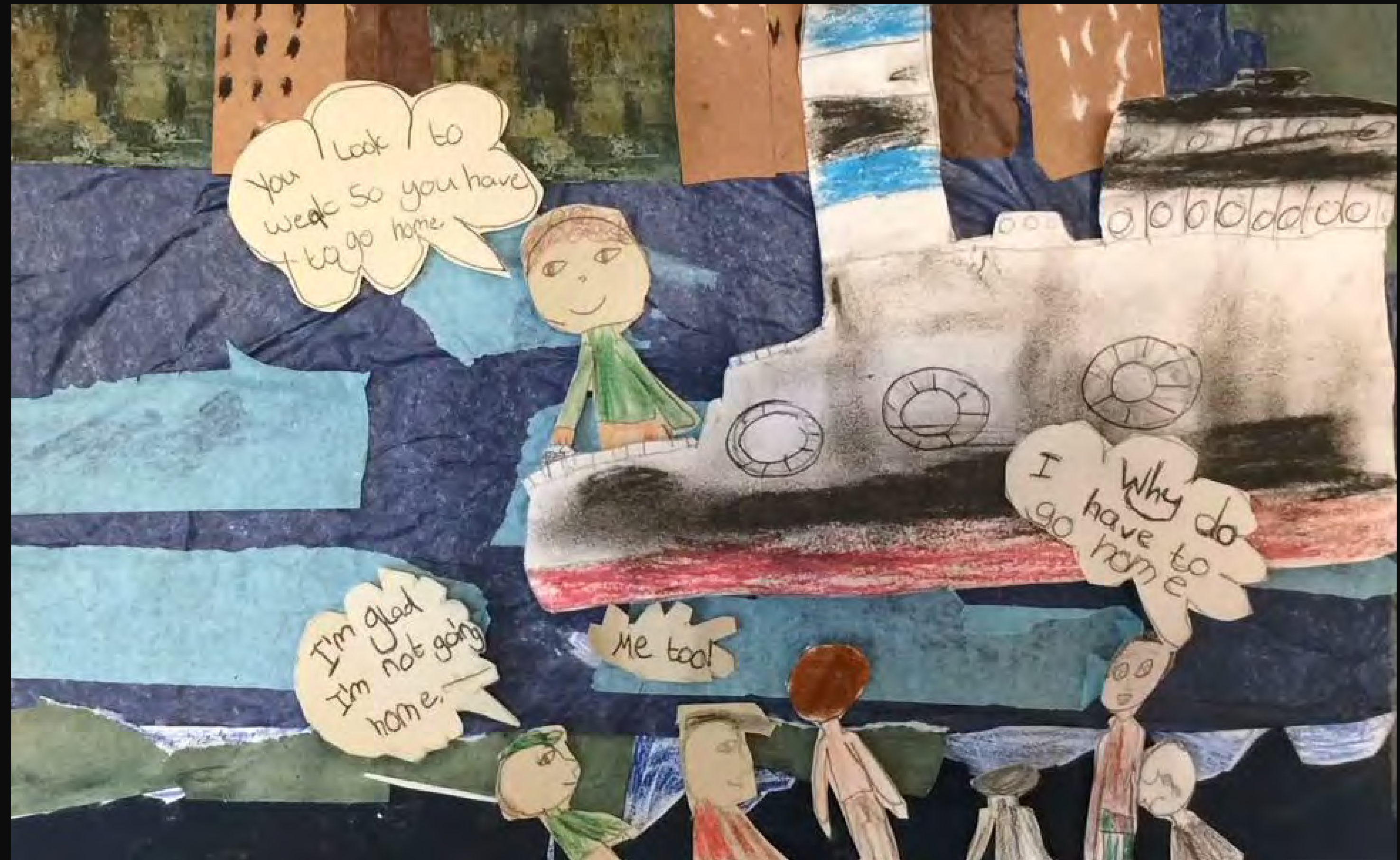
CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children in Year 4 were particularly interested in the isolated man in the painting. They decided that they wanted to tell his story from the point when he 'walked off the canvas'. They practised and developed their stop-frame animation skills and we held an open evening when students taught their parents how to animate. After much discussion, the class settled on a prosperous future for the man, who eventually realises his 'American Dream' and ends up owning a pizza restaurant chain.

ARTS LEADER

*'It all fitted together, because we storyboarded really well.'*

STUDENT, AGED 9





## BELLOWS THE HORSE

HILL TOP CE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY,  
BRADFORD

6–10 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOWS,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

The children were surprised that the horses in the painting were there to help transport the goods from the ships. We also noticed that the paint in the picture is really thick, which got us thinking about other ways to apply paint. One child said that he remembered doing hand-printing at home. We experimented printing with our hands, polystyrene, string and bubble wrap, then used these new skills to print onto fabric to make our horse. The outline of the horse was drawn by one of the Year 2 children and our Year 5 class helped us to sew it all together.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT WORKER

*'I liked seeing our horse in the hall for the first time and I felt proud – I realised how much work had gone into it.'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





# POLLUTED CITYSCAPES

GUNTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PETERBOROUGH

6–7 year-olds

# TAKE ONE PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

Our students were really excited about the skyscrapers in the painting! We drew and cut out cityscapes and added doors and windows. We also learnt how to make a 3D effect by using sticky dots to raise up our buildings from the background. We thought about the weather in the painting and explored how to use watercolours, different tones and brushstrokes to create the sky. We had an interesting discussion about pollution problems in cities, so we experimented with different ways of representing pollution in our final pieces.

CLASS TEACHER

*'We learnt that the sky had moody colours in it'*

STUDENT, AGED 7





# EMPIRE WINDRUSH

BEECROFT GARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDON

10–11 year-olds

TAKE ONE  
PICTURE

CHILDREN INSPIRED BY GEORGE BELLOW'S,  
MEN OF THE DOCKS

We learnt about workers migrating to New York in 1912 and wanted to research similar instances in London. We learnt about the Empire Windrush, a ship that brought skilled workers from the Caribbean in 1948. We thought about what it would be like to migrate to a new country and the children decided that they wanted to make their own version of the ship. They constructed the hull using cardboard and dowels, and covered it with relevant newspaper articles. They then wrote poems inspired by the painting and stuck these pages around the base of the ship to look like waves.

YEAR 6 TEACHER

*'When we tore up all the newspaper articles to papier mâché onto the boat we couldn't stop reading them. It was such good fun making something so big!'*

STUDENT, AGED 11

