

Interviewees: Erynne Newton (E) and Declan Cairns (D)	Interviewer: Flora Burns
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This is Monday 31st March (not April) 2014. This is Flora Burns (FB) and today I have got Erynne (E) and Declan (D) with me who are pupils in St Ninian's Primary School and you are both in Primary 4/5.

FB: That's correct?

E and D: Yes.

FB: And you're both 8 years old?

E and D: Yes. FB: Declan, have you always lived in Dumfries?

D: Yes.

FB: You were born in Dumfries. Have you always lived in the same house?

D: Yes.

FB: Yes OK. And where do you live?

D: [REDACTED]

FB: And does that mean you can walk to school?

D: Yeah.

FB: And how long does it take you to walk?

D: 3 or 5 minutes.

FB: 3 or 5 minutes, and you walk every day?

D: Yes.

FB: What happens when it rains?

D: Just get our hoods up and walk to school.

FB: [Laughing] Brave boy! And Erynne, what about you, have you always lived in Dumfries?

E: Yes.

FB: Yes. And always lived in the same house?

E: I don't know.

FB: Don't know, ok. Where do you live?

E: I live at [REDACTED]

FB: And how far is that from the school?

E: I think it is a few minutes away. Just over that way.

FB: A few minutes away so do you walk to school?

E: Yeah.

FB: Every day?

E: Yeah.

FB: And what happens when it rains?

E: I still go to school walking

FB: You still come to school walking. Good for you. So you are in primary 4/5 which means you have been in school now for about 3 years. Yes? 4 years, nearly 4 years?

E: 5 years cos I've been to the nursery.

D: I wasn't here. I just came at P2.

FB: So which school did you go to before you came here?

D: St Teresa's.

FB: St Teresa's. An did you move because your

D: It was going downhill.

FB: It was going downhill, so you thought that this would be a better school.

D: Hmmh.

FB: And you are quite happy with your move?

D: Yeah.

FB: Yes, OK. A notice you have got a school uniform. So when you come to school, Erynne, tell me what you are expected to wear.

E: I am expected to wear my school clothes.

FB: But describe them to me.

E: They're black and white and it means that they know that I've been to this school before.

FB: Who decided that it would be black and white?

E: Mrs Waugh.

D: Or the head teacher before Mrs Waugh.

E: I don't think there was ahead teacher before Mrs Waugh.

FB: So this school, it has always been black and white?

E and D: Yeah.

FB: Do you like black and white for school colours? Yes? You are quite happy with that? You wouldn't want to change the colour at all?

E and D: No.

FB: Do you ever feel like coming in your play clothes?

D: Well sometimes if we've got PE straight in the mornin.

E: Yea and sometimes if there's a World Book Day or some'in.

FB: And do you like it when you can come in your play clothes?

E and D: Yes

FB: What is it you always want to wear to school but you can't?

D: Shorts and a top

FB: But is it not too cold in the winter time? *[Laughing]*

D: No.

FB: You would come to school in your shorts and your top every day?

D: Yes *[emphatically]*.

FB: What about you, Erynne?

E: I would rather wear my school clothes.

FB: You are quite happy coming in your school uniform. Right. Ok. What makes a good teacher? If you could describe, and I don't want a name, I don't want a teacher in the school, but what makes a good teacher nowadays, would you say? We'll start with you Declan.

D: Nice.

FB: what do you mean by nice though?

D: Kindly.

E: And gentle.

FB: So when you say a teacher's being kind what are they doing that makes them seem kind?

D: They make us happy.

E: They help us and they help us if we're hurt.

FB: They help you if you are hurt and they make you happy. How does a teacher make you happy?

D: If like something's goin on with your family she'll try to sort it.

FB: So somebody you can go and talk to.

D: Yea.

FB: So they can make you happy, they can help you. What else makes a good teacher?

E: Ehmm....

FB: That you are looking for, if you could design your perfect teacher, you know, design a robot and then that would be your perfect teacher.

E: Beautiful.

FB: They would be beautiful, ok.

D: If it's a man, handsome.

FB: Handsome. Right ok, you like somebody nice to look at.

[5mins]

E: Generous.

FB: What makes a teacher generous? What are they doing then when they are generous, Declan?
It's an interesting one.

E: They're very exciting.

FB: Exciting. You like a teacher who can make the classroom exciting. So give me an example of a time when you found the classroom quite exciting?

D: If it's got banners everywhere.

E: When it is the teacher's birthday or somethin.

FB: The teacher's birthday?

D: It is my birthday in two days.

FB: Good for you and do you think the class will know when it's your birthday?

D: Yes.

FB: What will happen?

E: Probably say happy birthday.

FB: Probably sing.

D: No I'll have this big banner on me.

FB: Will you? *[laughing]*

E: A big banner going across your body like the mayor.

FB: So who will give you that banner, the teacher?

D: No, my mum.

FB: So you will come to school, not in your shorts and top but with a big banner saying, what 9 today 8 today what will be on it?

D: 9.

E: Birthday boy.

FB: Birthday boy might be on it ok and then when you get into the classroom will everybody start singing or...

D: No they'll probably hide under the tables and give me a shock.

FB: A shock?

E: Yeah, like boo!

FB: Do they do birthday bumps these days? Do you know what I mean by birthday bumps? Does that still happen?

D and E: Yessss!

E: I did it to my brother on his birthday.

FB: So what happens in St Ninian's when you get your birthday bumps?

D: Everybody does it tae me at the same time.

FB: Is it sore?

D: It's alright.

E: Someone going around behind with another person.

D: I put shorts under ma trousers so it won't hurt.

FB: Good. Give yourself a bit of a cushion so it won't hurt as much. But they don't mean to hurt you do they?

E: Cushion and he goes grr.

FB: So you will need to get 9 bumps will you?

E: Oh no 9 bumps and one for good luck or somethin silly.

FB: Do girls do birthday bumps as well?

E: Yes. My mum was going round with the girls saying birthday bumps for free

D: I will just say I am 8 today so I can get less.

E: Or maybe just one.

E: One today or a baby just born and then you won't get any birthday bumps.

FB: Oh I don't think he would pass for a one year old do you?

D: No, I'm like, if I was a one year old I would be like that *[makes baby noises]*.

FB: That's right. Let me talk about books. Have you got a favourite story, right Declan?

D: Well... ehmmm The Demon Dentist. No Peter Pan.
FB: What was the first one The Dentist, Demon Dentist? Tell me a wee bit about that.
D: Well this boy doesn't go for his teeth checked up so he's got no teeth. He went to his school and then this person gives the doc... the dentist give them some like toothpaste but it was like....
E: It would burn your teeth.
E: Yeah, burns your teeth and goes away.
D: And it's a demon woman it does it.
FB: Oh great. Does the story have a happy ending? Does he get his teeth back? Do they grow back in?
D: Yea.
FB: Yes, so he is able to get a full set of teeth again. Now you mentioned Peter Pan as well that was your second choice. What do you know about the story of Peter Pan?
D: Well, ehmm..... mermaids...pirates...
E: Peter Pan wears green..... Wendy wears blue.....the crocodile is green.
D: What was that again.... the boy with the red feather along his hair?FB: What does he do?
D: He goes on his skateboard and rolls into these other mans in the ground.
FB: So that must be from the film you are remembering that bit of the story. Are you? Is he one of the lost boys?
D: Yea, he is the captain of the lost boys.
FB: Captain Hook?
D: No.
E: Peter Pan.
FB: Smee?
D: No, it's like, ken how the lost boys, he's the popular one.
FB: What about you Erynne what is your favourite story so far?
E: Ehmm..... can't hink.
D: Say two.
E: Peter Pan is first and...

[10 mins]

FB: That's very nice of you to say Peter Pan but I am sure there are other books you must have read. Can you think when you were very young, keep thinking about it Erynne, when you were very young was there a book that you always wanted to read.....because that quite often happens. What was your one, Declan?
D: The caterpilt one when he goes into a butterfly wi all the food.
FB: Why did you like that one?
D: I just thought he was so greedy.
E: Witches, Witches.
FB: Did it have pictures?
D: Yeah.
FB: What was your favourite picture in the book, can you remember?
D: The ice cream.
FB: The ice cream, the ice cream picture?
D: Yeah.
FB: I didn't know caterpillars ate ice cream.
D: They don't.
FB: So why was there a picture of ice cream?
D: The caterpillar just found whatever he wanted and he just stuffed it up his gub. [Erynne makes munching noises]
FB: Munched everything?

D: Yeah, even munched wood.
FB: My goodness he was a very hungry....
E: An he's got massive cheeks rrrr....
FB: He was a very hungry caterpillar then. Erynne, you mentioned, I think, witches?
E: Yeah, witches.
FB: You like the book about witches.
E: From Roald Dahl
FB: Oh right. Roald Dahl he wrote about the witches didn't he? And what other books did he write that you've read?
E: Demon Dentist.
D: Roald Dahl did not.
E: The boy in the dress.
D: You are thinking of David Walliams.
E: Whatever. David Walliams, whatever it's called.
FB: Do you read these books on your own or do you read them.....
E: By myself.
FB: You can read these books by yourself
E: Cos I am accelerated reader. He's not. *[She giggles]*
D: You are chancin it Erin.
FB: When you were younger, who read to you when you were at home?
E: Probably my Mum and my Dad and my brother.
FB: And when did they read to you?
E: Ehmmm.... night time. And it's weird cos my brother's birthday's the day after mine.
FB: Is it?
E: So I was their birthday present.
D: My Mum, my Dad, my Nana, my Papa, my Nan.
FB: They all read to you when you were younger. So you had plenty readers.
D: I started greetin cos they finished the story.
FB: And you didn't want the story to end.
D: I didn't very want it to end.
FB: So it's a good feeling when somebody is sittin reading a story to you.
D: Yea.
FB: So who was the best reader in your house do you think? *[Erynne adds chants of Mammy and Papa as Declan answers]*
D: Papa.
FB: And why was Papa your favourite reader?
D: More expression.
FB: Right let's think about your visit to Moat Brae.
E: Ok. What did you learn?
FB: Well what did you like or what did you not like? Who wants to start? Right Declan?
D: I did not like the crocodile tick tocking. *[All laughing]*
E: It has a clock inside it. It is supposed to tick tock. Duh!
D: Cos it freaks me out. I thought it ate the clock.
E: It is only cardboard. Duh! Or is it real?
FB: But that's quite interesting because that means it was gettin attention, people did notice it and a lot of people did feed it. Your class fed it lots didn't they? Yes, you did really well gathering all that money together to feed the crocodile. So you didn't like the crocodile. Can you tell me something that you did like or something that was surprisin maybe?
D: Oh...the wine cellar
FB: You liked it?
D: Yeah.

FB: Why did you like that bit?
E: Cos you could've drunk wine.
D: That's one reason. Ehmm...
FB: Does your house have a basement?
D: No, I live in a flat.
FB: You live in a flat.
D: At the very bottom.
FB: So that house would have been very, very different to your flat.
D: But A live next to the field but the field was a swamp when I wasn't born.
FB: Can you go and play in that field?
D: Yea, you can play football or anything.
FB: That sounds quite good. Would you have liked to have lived in Moat Brae? *[Long pause]* Can you think? You stay in your flat just now would you have liked a house like Moat Brae if you could choose?
D: Can you move on to Erynne so I can think?
FB: I think we could move on to Erynne. I think Erynne is desperate to tell me something.

[15 mins]

E: I **would** live in it.
FB: Would you. Why would you want to live in it?
E: Because I would really like a basement.
FB: Why?
E: I would really like to put my dad in the basement to sleep and he would never be allowed upstairs ever.
FB: So was the basement your favourite bit of the house?
E: Yes everything was second best.
D: Yes, I would but have parties every night in a different room.
FB: They were big rooms weren't they? Lovely big rooms for having a party. So what do you think you learned then, Erynne, from visiting Moat Brae?
E: I learned everything about Moat Brae.
FB: Tell me something of the things that you remember.
E: Where you think that J M Barrie lived and the future it's goin to be changed into a learning centre for literacy.
FB: And do you think you would have liked playing in that garden?
E: Yea, it's massive.
FB: You thought it was massive. What about you, Declan?
D: Well, when it's better made I would.
FB: When it is all fixed up.
D: Yea.
FB: So you will come back and visit us when we open up in 2017?
D: Yea.
E: I said to my gran, I asked my granny if we could go some time when I am on holiday with her again.
FB: Ok. That would be lovely if you came back to visit. Some of your classmates have come back.
D: You can gang on a Saturday.
FB: You can go on Saturday.
E: Yea but I don't think I am going on holiday with my granny.
D: But you are on holiday though.
FB: But it will be open on Wednesdays, when you are on holiday, and that might be a good day for your gran to come and visit. Did your gran work at the house?

E: No. She is older than 50.
FB: What about you, Declan?
D: Well ma papa's nana used to work at it.
FB: Moat Brae? Did she? So what did your Nana do at Moat Brae then?
D: I think she's like, she tidied the whole place up.
FB: Do you think that would be an easy house or a difficult house to keep clean?
D: Oh difficult. If they have parties all the time.
FB: It wasn't a party house all the time though. Remember when your Nana would have been working there it would have been a hospital, A think.
D: It was sort of difficult cos of the blood.
FB: She talked about blood did she?
D: Yea.
E: And also Sophie said *[joined by Declan]* that the dead bodies were in the basement.
FB: I know, thank goodness there were no dead bodies that day you visited.
E: Yea, what if there was.
FB: Oh I don't think we would have brought you to visit the house if there had been dead bodies.
E: What if you forgot about the basement and then you walked down.
D: *[makes noises]*
FB: Did your Nana tell you anything else about Moat Brae? She worked there as a ... she tidied up, she cleaned up.
D: And she said.... *[Whispering going on]* You can pass on to Erynne now.
FB: Right OK, it will maybe come back to you.
E: What's the next question now?
FB: We are very nearly finished to be honest. But I wonder if there is anything you feel you've maybe wanted to tell me that I haven't got round to asking yet.
E: You could have a pool with pretend mermaids in it.
D: That's girlish.
E: And dead bodies with a big pole and with hanging skeletons.
FB: We need something for girls and boys so you are looking for a mermaids' pool in the garden?
E: Yea. An a big pole with skeletons hanging down.
D: Yea it would really good if it is like Moat Brae, like not cut in half but like, side of girls and side of boys.
FB: So you think there should be a definite section for girls, a section for boys because you think girls and boys ... why would you want them separate though?
E: I know.
D: Ehmm ...cos they're bossy?
E: *[growling voice]* Hey you don't say that about girls!
FB: *[laughing]* So you want to be able to come and get some peace and quiet away from the girls?
D: Yes.
E: Yes well a girl in the class that's actually more like a boy likes skeletons.
FB: Is that right?
D: Jennifer.
FB: She likes skeletons.
D: She's off.
E: Yeah, she's off today.
FB: Well that's been very useful. Thank you very much for coming and talking to me.
E: You're welcome.