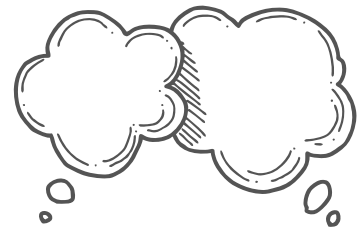


ON REFLECTION



Memorialising... children who experienced brutality at school

During Victorian times and much of the 20th century, many young people were able to learn and thrive thanks to the efforts of kind and dedicated teachers. However, some children also suffered appalling cruelty.

At times in the past, teachers often had less understanding of how children best learn. Many children were punished physically when they did things 'wrong' at school – this is called corporal punishment.

1

EXPLORE

Explore the abacus from Grantown Museum on this site, with a tawse attached.

What can we learn from this object about how some teachers responded to children who were struggling with their maths?



2

TRY IT YOURSELF

In the book 'Morning Tide', the Highlands author Neil Gunn describes a cruel teacher who impresses the children's parents by knowing seven different languages!

Set in a Caithness village, some of the experiences are inspired by the author's own childhood. Twelve-year-old Hugh is very anxious to learn his poetry by heart. He knows he will be beaten badly if he fails to remember it.

Practise the poem that Hugh has to learn – here is a section:

And never did Grecian chisel trace,
A Nymph, A Naiad or a Grace
Of finer form, or lovelier face!
What though the sun, with ardent frown,
Had slightly tinged her cheek with brown.

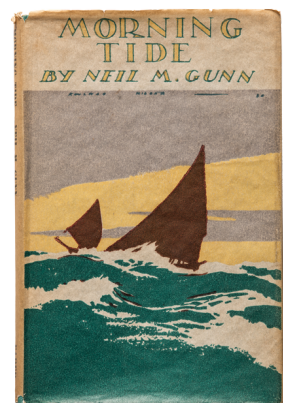
Could you remember that? Do you think being beaten would help you to remember?

3

TALK ABOUT IT

Corporal punishment was finally banned in most schools in the Education Act of 1986. Discuss corporal punishment with older people you know, such as your grandparents.

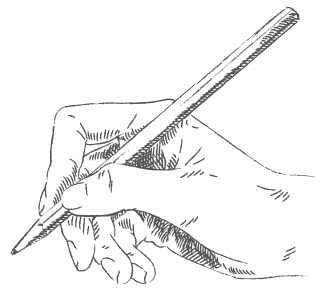
- Do they remember receiving or seeing corporal punishment at their school?
- What was the punishment for?
- Did it seem fair?
- Did they tell anyone about it?



4

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

