

*Human beings cannot bear chaos, meaninglessness, confusion. We constantly look for connectedness, for patterns of relationship between one thing and another that make a meaning we can understand. And if we can't find a pattern, we tend to construct one out of the disparate odds and ends of raw material in front of us. We do this with everything in our lives .....*  
(Chambers, 1993, p.18)

It's really rather melodramatic of me to link the above quote with how I've been feeling for the past few weeks, caught up as I am in the drudgery of testing, marking, paperwork, organizing supply teacher's work and trying to keep up too with Science, History and other work with the children. I've just been taking one day at a time, not looking too far ahead because the workload has seemed frighteningly large, partly due to the fact that the rest of my responsibilities at school do not stop just because of SATs and its associated workload. So there are still assemblies to organize, meetings to have, CPD to attend, a major behaviour issue to deal with and end of year Reports to hand in straight after half term!

So it is true to say that I've been feeling a bit sorry for myself, moaning and grumbling my way through most days at school and at home too.

I do not consciously *look for connectedness* but I recognize it immediately and am restored by it. This afternoon during a circle time on the theme of what friendship meant to the children, one little girl, Catherine, asked if she could have more time to think "*because I know what I want to say but I am trying to think of a better way to say it.*" A few minutes later she put her hand up and said she had thought about it. Her words were:

*Friendship is showing someone your heart.*

What powerful, image-laden words to describe friendship - I felt like the learner as Catherine explained to all of us that first she had been thinking that friendship was about liking someone very much but those words weren't enough to explain what she wanted to say. Even now, hours later and writing about this, I can feel the emotion in her words and in my response to them. The words make a meaning that I can understand and connect with (Chambers). Catherine has reminded me about what really matters to me in my vocation and it has put everything else into perspective again!

