

Library Display

Display a kite against the wall or hang it from the ceiling using fishing line on each corner so that it looks like the wind is catching it. If you can't find an actual kite, create one from cellophane and twigs or light dowel. A strategically placed electric fan could create the illusion of wind.

Using coloured cardboard, cut out seagulls, balloons, a kite and clouds and create a wall display. Add an actual knitted scarf and hat to create texture.

Literacy – Talking and Listening

Discuss the front cover and ask for opinions about the story. Can you remember what was blown away and the order it happened in? Why do you think the wind didn't blow the ball away? What else would you have put out for the wind to blow away? How did Ollie move from the island to his bedroom to get the kite? Which is your favourite page and why?

Discuss some of the artistic effects that the illustrator has used [repetition, lines, dots]. Compare the leaves on the trees with those painted in *Mr Huff*.

Watch this YouTube clip of *The Wind Blew* by Pat Hutchins and discuss the similarities and the differences between the stories.

WEB: The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins - YouTube

<http://tinyurl.com/hqo2vhe>

Writing Activities

Write a story from the perspective of a leaf being blown around by the wind. Where does it go? What does it see? What does it feel like? Where does it end up?

Digital Tools

On a windy day take the class outside and using digital cameras, smartphones or iPads, instruct them to take photos of things the wind is blowing [trees, flag, leaves, paper, bubbles]. Discuss

perspective, how to minimise background 'noise' and how to 'frame' the shot for best effect. Guide students to select and save their best photos.

Use Pic Collage to create a photo collage that can be printed and shared.

APP: Pic Collage

<http://tinyurl.com/hka4l7k>

Make a list of things that the wind can blow away. Type them into a Wordle word cloud to print, cut out and paste inside a kite shape.

WEB: Wordle

<http://wordle.net>

Research

Watch this YouTube clip explaining where the wind comes from and discuss it with a partner.

WEB: Bill Nye the Science Guy on Wind

<http://tinyurl.com/ms2496l>

Choose an island and research the climate. Share your findings.

Creative Arts

Make your own kite and tessellate it with shapes, colours and symbols seen in *Ollie and the Wind*.

Create a pinwheel and then take it outside to see how the wind makes it move. Instructions:

WEB: <http://tinyurl.com/z3k2j7u>

Create different paper planes and observe how changes in shape change speed and effectiveness. Instructions:

WEB: <http://tinyurl.com/q7m756p>

View and sing the song, *Let's Go Fly a Kite* from the movie *Mary Poppins* (alternatively use the *Saving Mr Banks* version).

WEB: <http://tinyurl.com/m79xz8m>

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Sequencing

Visualising

Text to World connections



The Cow Tripped Over the Moon

Author: Tony Wilson

ISBN: 978-1743623534

Published: 01/06/2015

Publisher: Scholastic

» PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION

Hey diddle diddle You all know the riddle A cow jumps over the moon ... But the moon is very high in the sky. How many attempts will it take before Cow makes her famous high-flying leap?

» OUR REVIEW

The enjoyable and untold back story to Cow's moon jumping feats! Told using the same rhyme, it details the unsuccessful attempts and finally the one that brought her to fame. Also featuring the other characters from the nursery rhyme, it shows how perseverance and planning pay off in the end, with some gentle prodding from one's friends! Good fun and a nice take on the original.

Recommended age: 2 to 6 years

Library Display

Choose an 'attempt' scene from the book, simplify and recreate it as a wall display. For example, print a colour image of a hot air balloon on A3 paper. Print a colour image of a cow and stick it to the balloon. Label it 'MOON ATTEMPT 2: 9.28PM'.

Purchase a low cost inflatable cow and hang it from the ceiling of the library using fishing line.

For example:

WEB: <http://tinyurl.com/jyc5nrc>

You could also hang a papier mâché [full] moon nearby. See weblinks for a tutorial.

Literacy – Talking and Listening

Compare this story with the nursery rhyme it is derived from [*Hey Diddle Diddle*]. What is the same about the two stories? What is different? Why do you think author Tony Wilson wrote the story? Which of the two do you prefer? Why?

Discuss other nursery rhymes and include some examples. Talk about their possible origins and how nursery rhymes are passed down through generations. Choose your favourite, then pair and share its tune, meaning and why you like it.

Discuss the cow before and after each attempt. How do her friends help her and how do they behave after each attempt including the final one? Refer to the blackline master for an expanded version of this activity.

Writing Activities

Take your favourite nursery rhyme and write a new version. Change the last word in the first line and keep replacing the words that rhyme with that one, for example: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Car*. This will lead you in a different direction with new meanings. It doesn't matter if it is silly! Nursery rhymes offer a fun way of playing with words.

Digital Tools

Watch this Puppet Pals tutorial on YouTube before commencing.

WEB: Puppet Pals Tutorial

<http://tinyurl.com/ha2gmb1>

Create a play showing the funniest moon attempt as well as the final successful attempt to jump over the moon. Work in a group to share your ideas and develop a script.

Use the *On The Farm* characters from the *Puppet Pals* app to create your play.

APP: Puppet Pals HD

<http://tinyurl.com/me77p9q>

Work with other students in your class to make a music video of your favourite nursery rhyme song with iMovie.

APP: iMovie

<http://tinyurl.com/b7fnlzs>

To expand this activity, you might find this lesson plan helpful.

WEB: Education World: Make a Music Video

<http://tinyurl.com/jo8kogk>

Research

Choose your favourite nursery rhyme and research its origins. Who wrote it? What country is it from? What era? What was it really about?

Creative Arts

Choose a scene from the book and create it as a diorama. Include all the characters in that scene. Add a typed label to explain the parts of your diorama.

Make a poster for your favourite nursery rhyme using similar lettering styles to those used by illustrator Laura Wood. You can view more about her work here:

WEB: Laura Wood Illustration

<http://tinyurl.com/juqjzns>

Most nursery rhymes are also songs. Choose a tune you like and write a simple nursery rhyme to go with it. Make it into a clapping game. You can find examples of clapping games for classic nursery rhymes via the link below.

WEB: Let's Play Kids Music

<http://tinyurl.com/gnnr226>

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Sequencing
Text to Self connections
Text to Text connections
Visualising

YOUNGER READERS



A Friend and A Pet: The Cleo Stories 2

Author: Libby Gleeson

ISBN: 978-1743315286

Published: 21/10/2015

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

» PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION

Cleo's best friend is away, her parents are busy, and there's nothing to do but count raindrops - or tidy her room. Just when she thinks she'll never cheer up, Cleo has an idea ...

In the next story, Cleo longs for a pet but her mum and dad say no. Perhaps the answer is hidden somewhere unexpected.

Two more endearing stories about Cleo, the little girl with a big imagination who always finds a way to have fun.

» OUR REVIEW

Two more delightful stories for young readers featuring Cleo and her family. Told with warmth and humour they charmingly reflect the inventive and stubborn mind of a little girl. In the first story Cleo is so bored that she can't motivate herself to do anything, until a chance encounter changes everything. But who is the mysterious Casey Pickles?

The second story focusses on her desire for a pet, after all 'everybody has one!' Her parents are initially reluctant, but Cleo comes up with a novel solution.

Major themes: family, boredom, inventiveness, persistence, pets

Recommended age: 5 to 8 years

Library Display

Ask the students to paint or draw a picture of the front of their house, then join them together to create a street scene like the one on the end papers of *The Cleo Stories*. Use coloured cotton wool to add trees [and texture] to the scene. Display it on the library wall.

Recreate a simplified scene from the front cover of the book. Create a three legged plant support out of light timber or bamboo. If you are concerned about stability, 'plant' it in a plaster of paris base to add weight and cover the bases with artificial grass, green crepe paper or fabric. Add some low cost artificial vine [see weblinks]. Next to it, add a pile of books, and on top of the books, a box with a bear inside.

Literacy – Talking and Listening

Talk about Cleo's feelings and help the students connect with their own. How do you feel when all your friends are busy? Have you ever had a friend who won't play with you anymore? How did that make you feel?

What would you need to do to prepare for owning a pet like the one Cleo has asked for? Use this brainstorming as inspiration for the blackline master activity Cleo's Pet.

Writing Activities

Write your own story about an imaginary friend. What is their name? What do you like about them? What don't you like.

Write a procedure for building your own bedroom castle.

Refer to the blackline master Cleo's Pet for further activities.

Digital Tools

Visit the Ava PetPEP website and play the Animal House game to learn about the types of housing

animals need. Then play Kitten Kaboodle on the same website, to help you learn about what each type of animal needs if you are to properly care for them. There are lots of other great activities on the site too.

WEB: AVA PetPEP

<http://tinyurl.com/zu56b8l>

Understand the cost of pet ownership by completing this digital activity [suitable for Year 6].

WEB: ASIC - The cost of cats & dogs ... and snakes?

<http://tinyurl.com/hbw6qzl>

Research

Research pet ownership statistics in Australia, and create a visual display that shows what types of pets we own and in what proportion.

Survey your classmates and other friends to find out what they like to do on rainy days. Create a chart of your findings.

Creative Arts

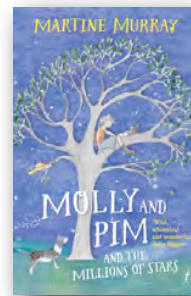
Write a brief one person skit about having no one else to play with. Think about what you normally do for fun when this happens, and choose something completely different for your character. Perform your play for the class.

Make your own 'pretend pet' and create a pet profile. What type of pet are they? What is their name? What do they like to do? What do you do together? Include a care plan for your pet.

Helpful instructions for 'pretend pet' related craft activities can be found on the following website.

WEB: My Little Bookcase

<http://tinyurl.com/zsrc6hn>



Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars

Author: Martine Murray

ISBN: 978-1925240085

Published: 24/06/2015

Publisher: Text Publishing

» PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION

Molly's mother is not like other mothers: she rides a yellow bike and collects herbs and makes potions, perhaps even magical potions. Molly wants to be normal, like her friend Ellen, and watch television and eat food that comes in packets. But when Molly's mother accidentally turns herself into a tree, Molly turns to the strange and wonderful Pim for help. And as they look for a way to rescue her mother, Molly discovers how to be happy with the oddness in her life. Martine Murray's new illustrated middle-grade novel is a whimsical story about friendship and individuality and learning to see the freshness and wonder in the world.

» OUR REVIEW

Molly resents her mum and the unorthodox life they lead. Why can't she be like her friends' mums and why can't their house be more normal? Whilst her mum spends her time collecting wild herbs and making potions, Molly's only desire is for some pre-packaged muesli bars!

Their obnoxious neighbours, the Grimshaws, are the catalyst for change when Molly's mum decides a tree is needed to block them out. Finding the perfect acorn to grow, she mixes up a potion which will speed up its growth. However,