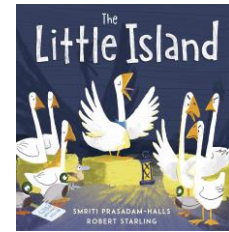


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

The Little Island by Smriti Prasadam-Halls and Robert Starling (Andersen Press)



1. Explore it

Read the spread from the text below and take time to look carefully at the illustration:



What do you notice? What is happening in this moment? How does the scene make you feel? What details in the illustration make you feel this way?

How do you feel about the foxes? What makes you feel this way? What do you think their intentions are? What do you think they might be thinking or saying to each other? You could note your ideas in thought or speech bubbles and stick these around the illustration.

The text tells us about the animals that aren't there, but what other animals can you see? Do you think that they are aware that they are being watched by the foxes? What makes you think this? What are their surroundings like? What might they be thinking, saying or doing?

Re-read the text on the page. Why do you think the author has used capital letters for the phrase **DINNER TIME!**, with an exclamation mark to punctuate this phrase? How does this make us feel about the foxes? How does it make us feel about the other animals?

Where might all the animals have gone? Why do you think they have gone? How does the illustration help to make the moment feel even more lonely and isolated?

2. Illustrate it

Re-read the text again and think about what might happen next.

Take a moment to consider how the foxes might reach the land across the water. What are the key challenges they might face and how might they overcome these? Foxes can swim, however they often prefer not to get wet.

Imagine that you are part of the skulk of foxes and you have been given the job of figuring out how to reach the land on the other side of the water. Take a pen or pencil and some paper and draw a plan of how to reach the island. How could they do this? What barriers are in the way? How might they overcome these? What additional equipment might they need? When you've drawn out your plans, share them with someone else at home. Do they think the foxes would be successful?

3. Talk about it

- We are told that The foxes **looked slyly at the little island**. What does the word **slyly** mean? Look this up in a dictionary or online if you aren't sure. What does this make us think about the foxes? Can you think of any other words that mean the same as this?
- Why do you think the author points out that animals **almost never agree**? What might lead her to think this?
- What do you think is likely to happen when the foxes reach the other side of the water? What clues in the illustration and text make you think this? What real life knowledge do you have that supports your thinking?
- Do you think the animals on the little island will be surprised by the arrival of the foxes or do you think they will be expecting them? What makes you think this?

4. Imagine it

Look closely at the illustration again, focusing in on the little island. What do you notice about the home in which the animals there live? Do you think it would provide protection for them? Why or why not?

What do you think they could do to make the little island, and their home, fox-proof? What advice would you give to these animals? Write down a list of your ideas, or draw out plans to share these.

5. Create it

The foxes are hungry and desperate for it to be **DINNER TIME!**

Think for a moment about your favourite food. It might be a breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner, dessert or a menu with a number of dishes! Why do you like this food so much? Think about the experience of having this meal. How does it make you feel? What does it look like? Smell like? Taste like? Write down all the words and phrases that come to mind when you think about this food. You could draw a picture or find a photograph of this meal to help you think about it more closely.

Now, use the words and phrases to write a description of this food. You could imagine you are advertising the meal on the TV or radio, to entice listeners or viewers to try or buy the meal. What would you tell them about this meal? How would you describe the food and how it looks, smells and tastes? How could you describe the feeling of eating it? Write down your description, then using an audio or video recorder, on a phone or device record yourself talking about the meal. Listen back to your description; does it sound enticing or is there anything else you can change or add? Finally, play it to someone else at home and ask them if they find your description enticing. Maybe they could describe their favourite meal to you as well. Perhaps, you could even try cooking it!