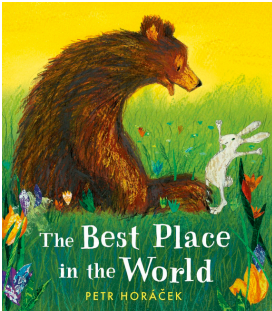




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Best Place in the World

Author: Petr Horáček
ISBN: 9781406388817
March 2020

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

“Do you think this is *The Best Place In The World*?” Hare asks his friends, Rabbit, Bear, Duck and Owl. Certain there must be somewhere better out there, Hare sets out on an adventure that takes him to mountains higher than the clouds, sun-kissed beaches and starlit deserts. But even the most beautiful place isn't perfect without friends to share it with, and perhaps the best place in the world is actually closer than Hare thinks.

With gorgeous artwork in a stunning summer palette, this is a beautiful picture book from the Kate Greenaway Medal-shortlisted illustrator Petr Horáček, who has been described by The Washington Post as “the thinking tot's Eric Carle”.

Author Information:

Petr Horáček's bold and imaginative illustrations continue to captivate children and critics. His stories, often about loyalty and belonging, are told with an instinctive warmth and humour and are beautifully brought to life through his evocative use of colour and texture. He has won many awards around the world for classics such as *Suzy Goose* and *A New House for Mouse* and was shortlisted for the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal in 2012 and 2018. He lives in Worcester.

Visit Petr's website: www.petrHoracek.co.uk

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:

- Ages 4-7,
- Years K-1

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Friendship
- Animals
- Gratitude
- Nature



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *The Best Place In The World*.

Exploring the Book

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- What is the composition (i.e. where are the key elements placed)? Are Hare and the other animals large or small? In the foreground or background? Do they seem powerful or weak; happy or sad; scared or confident, etc?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?
- Is the illustration framed or does it take up the whole page? Why do you think Petr Horáček illustrated it this way?
- Do the colours change from spread to spread? Make a list of the colours used in each area (this is called the colour palette). Why do you think he chose these colour palettes for the mountains, the sea, the meadow, and so on?

Exploring the Illustrations

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- What is the composition (i.e. where are the key elements placed)? Are Hare and the other animals large or small? In the foreground or background? Do they seem powerful or weak; happy or sad; scared or confident, etc?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?
- Is the illustration framed or does it take up the whole page? Why do you think Petr Horáček illustrated it this way?
- Do the colours change from spread to spread? Make a list of the colours used in each area (this is called the colour palette). Why do you think he chose these colour palettes for the mountains, the sea, the meadow, and so on?

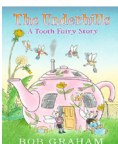
Look particularly at the spreads with the waterfalls and the mountains. How has Petr Horáček used colour to create movement and light in his illustrations? Do you think it works? Why or why not?

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Creative Responses to the Text

Think about your favourite place in the whole world, and share it with your classmates. What makes it special, and why is it your favourite? Do you like to go there alone, or with your friends or family? Draw a picture of you in your favourite place and share it with the class.

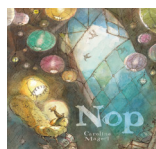
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