



SIX ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CILIP CARNEGIE AND KATE GREENAWAY MEDALS

Activity 1: To Infinity and Beyond

Imagine this: it's a warm, summer evening and you're lying on your back, reading a book and gazing up at the stars. There's no one else around.

Suddenly, out of nowhere you see a strange craft hovering; it's saucer shaped, metallic, with flashing lights.

As you watch the shape, it begins to hover closer to you.

A door opens, and a funny looking creature steps out. It looks like nothing you have ever seen before, and as it steps towards you, it makes it clear that it is a peace-loving alien. Then, it opens its mouth and says 'hello'.

You start to chat. After a while, the alien looks at the book in your hand and asks you, 'what is that?'

Write down how you would explain what a book is to someone who has never had any experience of one. Talk about how books are made, how they are written and how they are illustrated, how they are printed and where you can get hold of them.

Tell the alien why books are important to our planet, how we use them to educate, to communicate, to entertain.

Imagine what the alien's attitudes will be. When it's time for it to leave, think about what three books – with at least one from the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway archive – you would like to give the alien to take back to its people.

Why did you choose these three titles? What will they tell another civilization about our planet? And what will it tell them about you?

"There is a time between night and day when landscapes sleep. Only the earliest riser sees that hour..."

Extract from Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce, CILIP Carnegie Medal winner, 1958



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