

I Will Not Ever, Never Eat a Tomato By Lauren Child

LEARNING TO LOOK

This activity is to encourage children to look more closely and critically at illustrations. It can be modelled whilst working with the whole class or a mixed ability group. It encourages children to offer their personal interpretation of the illustration and to share and shape their ideas orally in a collaborative setting.

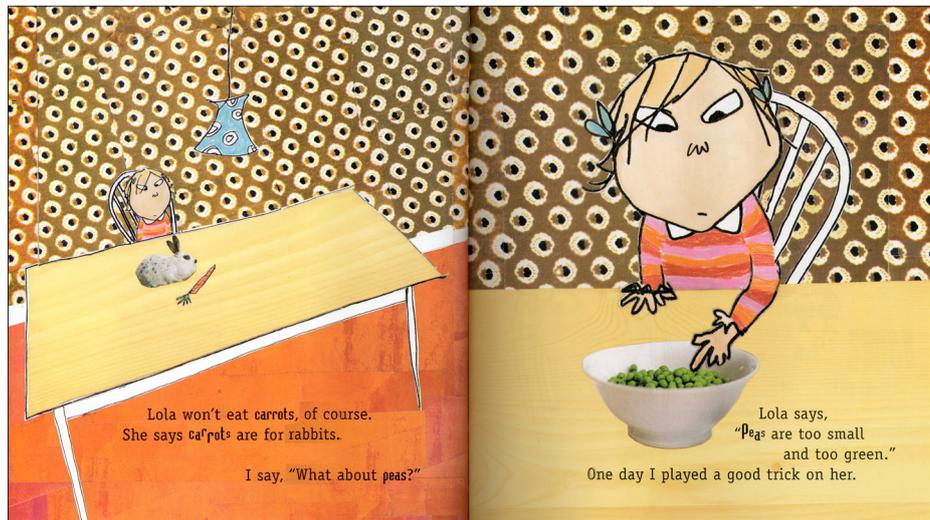
The aims of this activity are:

- to increase the interaction with and enjoyment of picture books for children of all ages
- to develop children's confidence and vocabulary to respond to what they see – to observe and describe
- to encourage them to build on their previous experience, imagination and understanding to make sense of visual information – to interpret
- to consider a variety of graphic forms and their interaction with a text in order to convey layers of meaning – to appreciate
- to recognise different styles and techniques used and developed by a variety of illustrators – to analyse
- to begin to recognise and appreciate visual metaphor, irony, puns and jokes etc. – to participate

The following questions have been designed to help children to look more closely at the illustrative work of **Lauren Child**.

By moving from the whole picture to the smallest part children are encouraged to search for and use all available clues given by the artist to make meaning. Please select and adapt the questions to make them appropriate for your setting.

If possible give children one copy of the picture to share between two or use an enlarged picture that everyone can see.



TELL ME ABOUT LAUREN CHILD'S ILLUSTRATIONS...

Please select/adapt questions, which you think are most appropriate for the children you are working with...

Look at the first page. This is a long shot of Lola. What information has the artist given you about where she is?

What part of the room is she in?

What do you notice about angles and perspective?

Look carefully at the background. What do you notice about the wallpaper and the way it has been applied to the picture?

How has the flooring been created?

Why do you think the illustrator has chosen collage rather than painting the whole picture?

What tones of colours have been used here?

How would you describe the pattern on the wallpaper?

What colours are on it?

In what ways do the walls and the floor contrast with the kitchen table?

Describe the table. Why do you think that Lauren Child has made it so blank?

What is the focus of this page?

How has the illustrator achieved this?

Look at the hanging lampshade. Is the light on?

Why has the illustrator placed it over the table?

What is on the table?

Look at the rabbit. Cutting out photographs and sticking them on to another picture is called photomontage. Why do you think the illustrator has chosen this rather than painting a rabbit herself?

Is the carrot photomontage?

Where has the rabbit come from?

How old do you think Lola is?

How and why has the artist made her look so small?

How can you tell what type of mood Lola is in?

What do you notice about her body language and facial expression?

Why can't you see her hands?

Look at the colours on Lola's jumper, are they reflected anywhere else in the picture?

Look at the second page. What has changed?

This is a close up of Lola. What are her most prominent features?

How would you describe the look in her eyes?

How has the illustrator achieved this?

Consider:

- shape
- angle
- size
- intensity of line and colour
- position on face

Look at Lola's mouth, what do you notice about it?

What is the effect on her whole face of placing her mouth so low down on her chin?

How would you describe the shape and size of her head?

Strong black lines delineate her hair. What does this achieve?

What do you notice about the position of her body now?

Is there any movement here?

How has the illustrator achieved this?

What is Lola pointing at?

Can you see the cut out lines around her fingers?

What is the impact of placing Lola's drawn hand inside the photographed bowl of peas?

Lauren Child often uses a strong black line to outline her drawings. Where do you notice them in this picture and what is their effect?

There are no borders around these pictures. Where are you watching Lola from?

Read the text, who is telling this story, where are they as you read?

In what ways does the text work with the illustrations?

What do you notice about the style and layout of the font? What effects does it create?

Is this book contemporary? Does the style and presentation of these illustrations give you any clues about when it was published?

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Consider details such as:

- Page layout
- Fashion
- Use and application of colour
- Definition of colour
- Amount of colours used
- Appearance of characters
- Illustrative style
- Artistic movements

When do you think it was published?

1950s?

1960s?

1970s?

1980s?

1990s?

2000s?

WRITE IT DOWN

Harvest children's responses and record their descriptions and comments on a whiteboard/flip chart. Are there any aspects of the picture that they find particularly interesting or puzzling?

