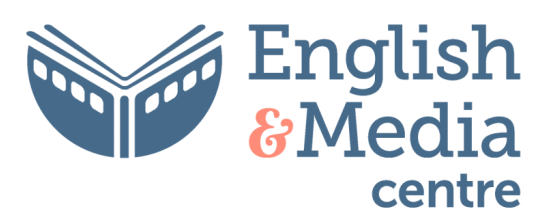
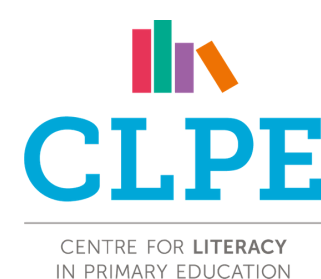
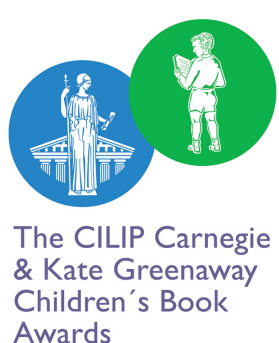
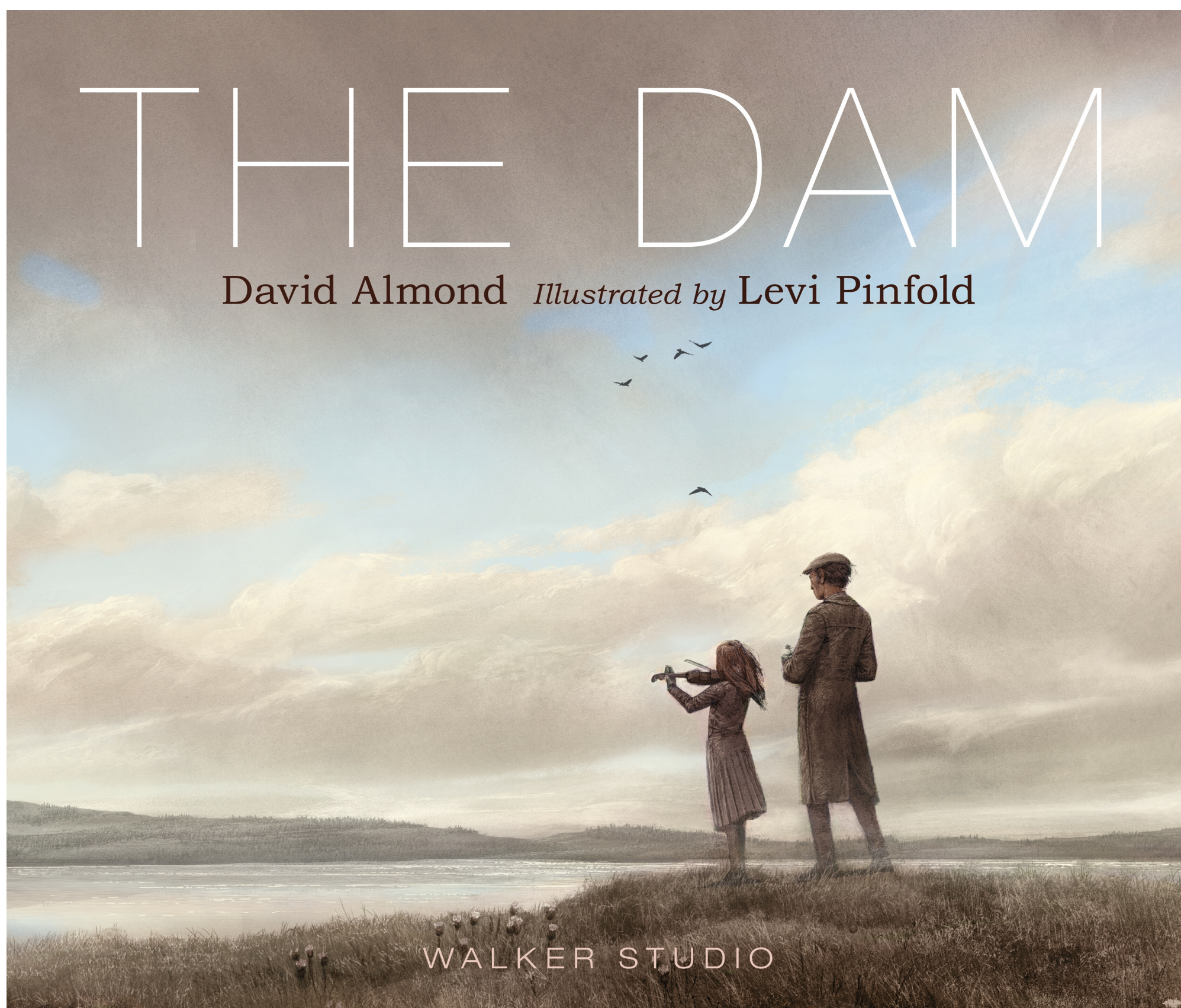


CILIP KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2020 SHADOWING RESOURCES



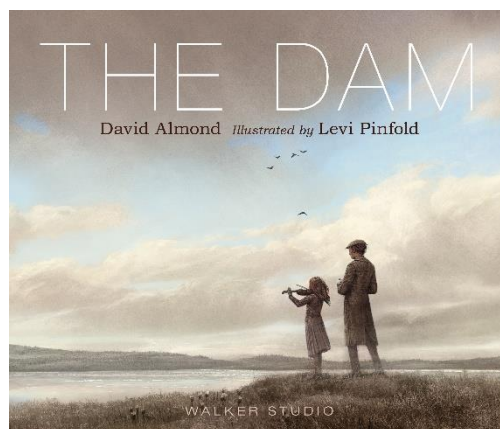
CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

Title: *The Dam*

Illustrator: **Levi Pinfold**

Author: David Almond

Publisher: Walker Books



Shadowers' Views

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist requires you to look very carefully at artwork in order to form a judgment about it. The word **view** can refer to both what can you see, and to your opinions. You are looking for a book that 'creates an outstanding reading experience through illustration'.

Front Cover

For a picturebook, this is a very 'quiet' front cover. The colours are subdued shades of blue and grey. Mostly sky, the land and water seem undisturbed while the two characters watch the scene and listen to the music of the girl's fiddle. Shadowers might like to explore the illustration while listening to Northumbrian fiddle music: www.youtube.com/watch?v=63yNs5rrgII

First Read

The Dam is a true story; it is nonfiction, but written in lyrical language, like a poem or, perhaps more appropriately, a song. Read the last printed page in the book to learn how David Almond came to write it. The book is dedicated to Mike and Kathryn Tickell, both of whom are world famous folk musicians. They are the father and daughter in *The Dam*. Although the book tells of sadness when a valley is 'drowned', it also celebrates positive change. Remember to encourage Shadowers to consider the artistic elements of the book as it is a contender for the Kate Greenaway Medal for illustration.

Look through the book together as a group, perhaps reading aloud from the written text whilst looking over each picture. Chat in pairs, or as a group, about what you think of this book, particularly your first impressions of the pictures. For more information, visit:

<http://arenaillustration.com/news/the-dam-by-david-almond-and-levi-pinfold/>.

Look again

Several adult readers have used the following words to describe the illustrations in *The Dam*:

evocative melancholy moody windswept majestic dreamy

Do you agree? Which words describe the atmosphere created by the images?

'The dam was almost done'

The double page spread following the words above is dominated by bleak greyness; the flat slabs of concrete look out of place on a hillside; a pale sun is rising on a wintry scene. Father and daughter walk towards the abandoned buildings. Why do they go from house to house?



'Sing, Daddy, sing. Dance, daddy dance.'

Can you see the dancers? Are they spirits, ghosts, visible memories or all of those and more?

'The lake is beautiful'

Turn to the double page spread that follows the words 'The lake is beautiful'. The blue water reflects the clouds, flowers bloom in the grass and the girl returns with her dad. How do the illustrations show that the music and dancing continues? Are the ghosts of the previous generation still there too? Their houses may have gone but their community and culture remain and get stronger.

Talk about all the visual aspects of the book i.e. little images of creatures, end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' contribute to the overall impact of the book?

Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to introduce tasks which require imaginative responses. Reading a true story can inspire curiosity and empathy. Research activities could encourage such response. The following suggestions may help shadowers to engage with the book.

Research

Find out from books or on-line about the Kielder Dam Project in the 1970s when a whole valley was filled with water. What has happened since the end of the story in the book? www.visitkielder.com

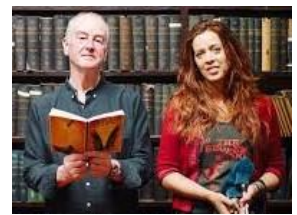
'This will be gone.'

Levi Pinfold's beautifully painted illustrations show what the valley would lose once the dam was finished.

- What creatures would be disturbed?
- What memories did the father and daughter share about the people of the valley?
- The father says, 'Play for all that are gone and for all that are still to come'. How is this statement both nostalgic and optimistic?
- How does the picture of the girl playing her fiddle, show dance and music-making in the past and present?

Writing

Imagine that you lived in the village that is going to be flooded. Write a short piece to explain what your feelings might have been if you had to leave. Eventually all your possessions will be packed and you will move to a new place. Think of the little, personal things about where you lived that will be gone forever. Perhaps copy David Almond's poetic style of writing to show how you feel.



David Almond & Kathryn Tickell

Listen to the music of Northumbria

1. Kathryn Tickell playing her fiddle.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YufM2gGKS48&list=TLPOMDIwMzIwMjDSmum_zH0L-w&index=2

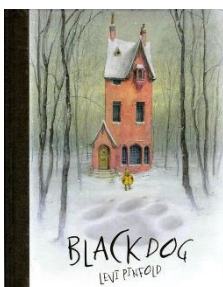
2. Northumbrian pipes played by Kathryn Tickell.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiuMwskhsGk

3. Alice Burn & Anthony Robb playing a lament

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aktwj2NGE4

Could your shadowers use any of the Northumbrian music to inspire a dance sequence?



Read more

If you have enjoyed reading *The Dam* why not explore illustrator Levi Pinfold's 2013 Kate Greenaway winning book, *Black Dog*?

FURTHER THINKING

CILIP works in partnership with Amnesty International and Inclusive Minds to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in children's literature. The discussion points below are intended to further stimulate reader's thinking on the themes explored in the shortlisted books.

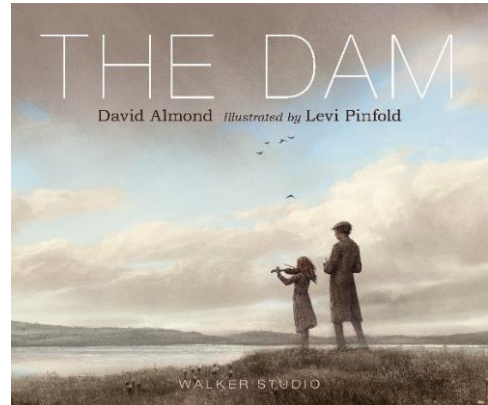
CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

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Discussing human rights in this story:

Right to leisure; Right to our own way of life; Right to create and enjoy art.

- Why is it important to remember and share our culture?
- Why is creating and enjoying art a fundamental human right?
- How important is music to you?



Discussing inclusion and representation in this story:

- How might it feel to lose the place where you have lived?
- What part does a book like this play in encouraging a celebration of community and tradition?
- What does the book tell us about how our memories keep people and places alive? What part can creativity play in this? Do you need a physical place to visit to remember a person or a place?



CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

**TEACHING NOTES FROM CLPE
COMING SOON**



CENTRE FOR **LITERACY**
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION