

**FArTHER**  
**Written and Illustrated by Graham Baker-Smith**  
**ISBN 978-1-84877-126-0**

*Use the double page spread depicting the father waving as he leaves his wife and child to go to war.*

Working in pairs, encourage children to explore the picture discussing their responses and working together to make meaning of what they see. Ask them to jot down words and phrases, which reflect their responses to looking.

**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 Graham Baker-Smith moving from the whole picture to the smallest part and 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.

**TELL ME ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATION...**

Look at the arrangement of this double page spread. How do your eyes travel across the page?

The artist has created many barriers, which ones do you notice?

The foreground to the right is dark and rugged, how does it contrast with the area in which the mother, child and dog are standing?

What does it make you think about their lives in contrast to the fathers?

What do you think will be the father's destiny?

What do you notice about the colours the artist has used? How would you describe the colours in the sea?

Look at the rowing boat and its position under the wave. Is the boatman or the father aware of the danger ahead?

Who can see the danger?

How has the illustrator created a sense of distance between the father and his family?

The father was fixated by flight, but all his attempts were thwarted, what can you see in this picture that represents the pull of gravity and the lightness of flight?

How would you describe the atmosphere created by the weather on this page?

What is the significance of such a stormy sea?

How are the mother and child protected from the storm?

Is there anything that puzzles you about this page?

Why has the illustrator chosen poppies?

What do you notice about the way they are arranged around the rocks?

What clues does the illustrator give you about the time in history when this story is set?

Look at the pattern on the tiles and the patterns in the gilded fence, what do you notice?

What materials has the illustrator used to create this picture?

What do you think is the significance of the dog in the left hand corner of the page?

Is this a realistic composition?

How would you describe the style used for the fathers face? How does it contrast to the depictions of his family, and for example, the rocks and dog, which could be photographic?

## **WRITE IT DOWN**

Harvest children's responses and record their descriptions and comments on a flip chart. Are there any aspects of the picture that they find particularly interesting or puzzling? How do these pictures interact and work with the rest of the book?