

Me AND You
Written and Illustrated by Anthony Browne
ISBN 978-0-385-61489-4

Use the double page spread depicting the three bears setting off for their walk with baby bear doing a headstand on the bench.

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 Anthony Browne 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...

These two pages are about journeys, whose journeys are they?

Do you feel that you would like to be with any of these characters? Would you like to be walking with any of the characters? Why/why not?

Which page do you look at first?

What do you notice about the right hand page? Why do you think that the colour goes right to the edge?

Can you imagine what is to the left and right of the bears?

Who do these three characters represent? What story do you think they are from?

How would you describe the colours on this page? What medium do you think Anthony Browne has used to create this picture? Look closely at the blades of grass – how have they been created?

Why do you think he has chosen pastel shades? What is the predominant colour?

Anthony Browne enjoys having jokes and puzzles with his readers. Can you spot any on this page?

What do you notice about the three trees in the middle distance? In what ways do they reflect the three bears? Is there anything unusual about the smallest tree?

What kind of mood would you say Daddy and Mummy bear are in?

How would you describe their body language? Does it tell you anything about the moods they are in?

How would you describe the way baby bear is feeling?

Where do you think this part of the story is taking place?

How are your eyes taken from the bear's path to the left hand page? Consider the illustrator's use of colour to link one page to the next.

How is the story on this page being told?

Why do you think Anthony Browne has chosen to tell it in these six frames?

What do you notice about the contrasting illustrative styles on the two pages? Compare the size, the use and application of colour. Look at the first frame; what do the jagged broken windows make you think of? How do you think this character feels as they walk past?

At this point do you have any ideas about who this child might be? Why do you think they are alone in this place?

Now look at all the windows depicted on this page, how has Anthony Browne kept us out of these buildings? How do you feel about these buildings? Which one would you most like to go inside?

Do you think this child knows where they are going?

How has Anthony Browne created a sense of being trapped or lost?

Look at the third picture. How has the illustrator made this character look so small and vulnerable?

Is there anything that puzzles you about this illustration?

What do you notice about the telegraph pole?

This is the first time we have a full portrait of the child, what is your impression of them?

Look at the fourth picture? How has the mood changed? What is the effect of the railings in contrast to the walls?

What can you see in the far distance beyond the trees? Is this a forest or an industrial landscape?

Where do the three bears live in traditional stories?

How would you describe the place where they live in this story? How does their house compare with the other places the child has walked past?

What do you notice about the windows and the door on the house?

Do you think the character should go inside?

How would you describe the way the child is opening the door?

In all six frames we have different shots of the girl, which one would you describe as a long shot?

Looking at the page as a whole consider the effect of the addition of colour in the final two illustrations. How does the colour make you feel as you look?

Do you know who this child is?

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?