

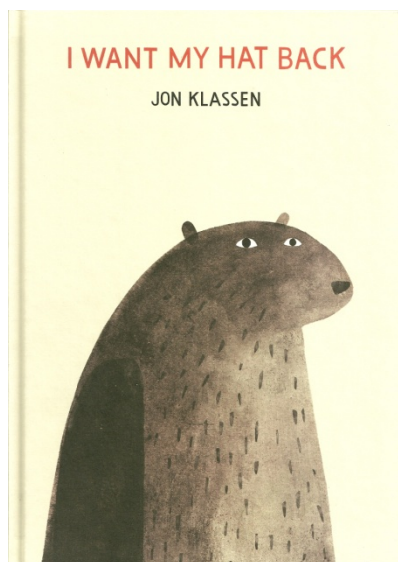
Notes to support Greenaway shadowing groups

Evaluating artistic quality: start with colour, line, shape and space

Title: I WANT MY HAT BACK

Author and Illustrator: **John Klassen**

Publisher: **Walker Books**



1. FIRST LOOK

Share this book with the whole group by reading it aloud. Make it an uninterrupted read through without making comments and holding it up so everyone can see the pictures as they listen.

*Go through the book again – look at the opening endpaper which leads into the story. You meet each of the creatures depicted on the endpaper again as you read on. Apart from a few scraps of vegetation (grass, leaves etc.), the illustrations are very plain. It soon becomes clear that most of the visual meaning is being created by colour and each animal's eyes.

*How do the changing colours in the words affect meaning?

*How do we know that the rabbit is **'talking through his hat'**? Look up the origin of that phrase up on the Internet.

2. LOOK AGAIN

*Tell each other your first responses to the artistic quality. Try to explain why you like or dislike something.

* Can you work out how any animal is feeling by looking at their eyes?

*How do the colours and font indicate that the bear realises he has seen his hat?

*Discuss the ending of the tale. What does the final endpaper show?

*Look closely at every visual aspect, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout, as well as the pictures. Talk about how these extra graphics contribute to the overall impact of the book.



3. WORDS AND IMAGES

How would you illustrate the last five pages of this story? The illustrations in *I Want My Hat Back* have been created digitally. You could have a go at creating a digital animal using an art program.