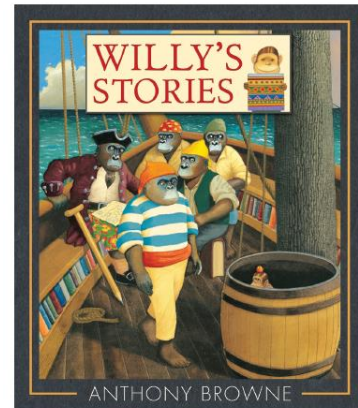


2016 Kate Greenaway shortlist: Visual Literacy notes

Title: **Willy's Stories**

Illustrator/author **Anthony Browne**

Publisher: Walker Books



First look

Ask if the group of shadowers are familiar with any of Anthony Browne's other Willy books. If they are not, introduce them to Willy's world of apes and adventures.

Remind the group that it is the quality of the artwork that they are judging before you read it aloud to them. Give an uninterrupted read, without making comments and holding it up so that everyone can see the pictures as they listen.

Go through the book again page by page concentrating on the visual text. Look closely at every picture and ask the group to point out to each other anything that strikes them as worthy of comment.

Chat in pairs or as a group about the first experience of the book. Did they like it? What did they like or dislike and why?

Look again

When the group have discussed their first responses, return to the book; look, think and talk more about the artwork.

- Willy's Stories is a book about famous books (and three traditional tales).
- Willy has been a regular character in Browne's books since the artist created the lovable chimp in 1984 for his book Willy the Wimp.



Willy's Stories starts with Willy walking through the doors of a building where he has 'incredible adventures'. Could it be a library? Each of the following pages present clues to which story Willy is reading.

Look for books in every picture. They are 'disguised' in many ways; for example, as steps, part of a tree or as building materials.

In all the pictures, Willy takes the role of the leading character in each book. What is each character's name?

Look at everything

Talk about any visual aspect of the book that interests you, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. Do these 'extras' contribute to the overall impact of the book?



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The endpapers, for example, have been created using a very old fashioned technique called marbling. Most of the books that Browne celebrates in *Willy's Stories* were published over a hundred years ago when marbling was frequently used by publishers for endpapers.

Another traditional pattern can be seen on Willy's tank top (sleeveless jumper, popular in the 1980s). How often is the pattern of Willy's jumper used throughout the book?

Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to find ways to get youngsters to fully engage with the whole text. This can be achieved through exploratory tasks and creative responses such as drama and art. The following suggestions may help young readers to become absorbed in the book.

Intertextual reference

Browne always refers to other texts (written and visual) in his pictures.

This happens on every page of *Willy's Stories*. Look closely at the page where Willy is falling past a big bookshelf. What famous children's book is this page about? Look at the different things on the shelves.



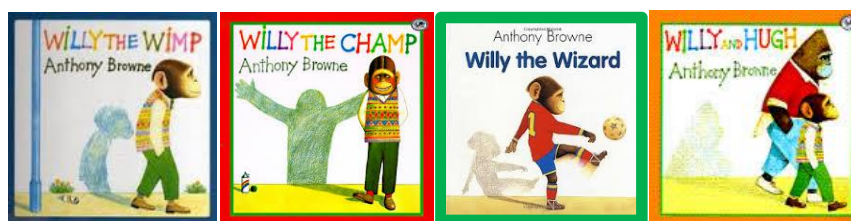
Can you find visual references to:

- Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit
- the original illustrations for the Alice stories by Tenniel
- a famous nursery rhyme

Explore other pictures to see if you can identify any other intertextual references.

Pictures of Willy

Have a collection of other Willy books for the shadowers to browse through.



Art

Many youngsters are intrigued by Anthony Browne's pictures. Provide materials for shadowers to have a go at making up their own picture of Willy in a favourite story.

Listen to the artist

BookTrust UK have several videos of Anthony Browne talking about his work available via the website www.booktrust.org.uk.

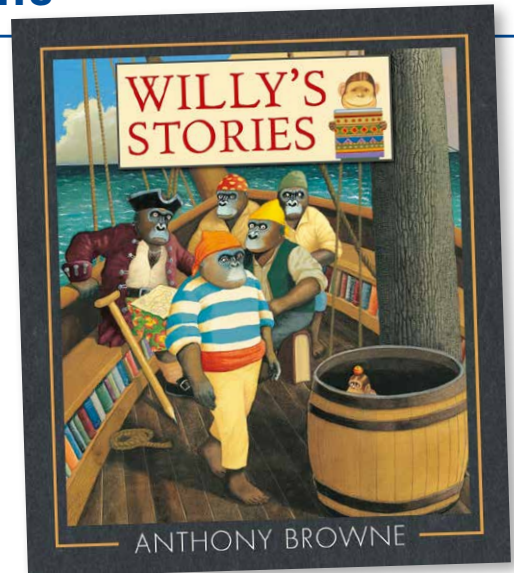


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WILLY'S STORIES

by Anthony Browne

Published by Walker Books



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 27: Everyone has the right to education.

Willy loves stories and this book follows him and his trips to the library every week. When Willy reads he goes on amazing adventures, and learns about other people and himself. He also becomes more courageous as he imagines how to solve problems.

We all have a right to education, which should help us use and develop our talents and abilities. Reading develops our imaginations and broadens our horizons so that we can go on travels and use our imaginations just like Willy. We also have the right to think and believe what we want to, and to express our ideas through stories, culture and art.

Writing is a powerful way of upholding human rights and protesting against human rights abuses. Writers and artists are often amongst the first to be imprisoned by repressive governments seeking to restrict the freedom of expression.

THEMES

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of thought
- Cultural rights
- Children's rights

QUESTIONS

- What do you notice about the weapons in the book?
- Why does Willy love reading?
- How can stories make the world a better place?

ACTIVITY

Add a page to the book by drawing a scene from your own favourite story with Willy in it. Write a description and a question to go with your picture.

RESEARCH

Talk about writers and artists who have been imprisoned because of their work.

For more free teaching resources go to www.amnesty.org.uk/education



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