

Notes to support Greenaway shadowing groups

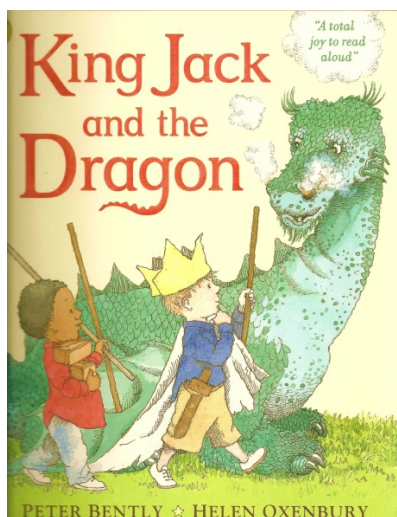
Evaluating artistic quality: start with colour, line, shape and space

Title: KING JACK AND THE DRAGON

Author: **Peter Bently**

Illustrator: **Helen Oxenbury**

Publisher: **Puffin**



1. FIRST LOOK

High quality drawing is what stands out in this book. On every page you can see Helen Oxenbury's beautifully crafted line drawings.

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

*Go through the book again – this time looking closely at every picture and saying anything that strikes you as interesting.

Notice how the written and visual texts are both presented from the children's perspective. Reality and imagination work together without anything dividing them. It offers a perfect depiction of free-flowing, child-led imaginative play.

2. LOOK AGAIN

* Tell each other your first responses to the artistic quality.

* Try to explain why you like or dislike something.

* Colour is used in most pictures but there are also some plain drawings. Hatching is used on both types of drawing.

*Can you work out if there is a difference in purpose between the coloured and plain pictures?

*Why do you think there are three double page spreads which have no borders (i.e. they 'bleed' to the edges of the pages)?

Talk about every visual aspect, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout, as well as the pictures. How do these extras contribute to the overall impact of the book.

3. CLOSE LOOKING

High quality drawings start with close observation of the subject. Look at how accurately Helen Oxenbury depicts children's expressions, bearing and attitudes. In a pencil or charcoal drawing, try to capture the whole spirit of a person as Helen Oxenbury does by observing and taking time to look and draw.