

Title: **Where my Wellies Take Me**

Author: **Clare and Michael Morpurgo**

Illustrator: **Olivia Lomenech Gill**

Publisher: **Templar Publishing**

First look

- * This book may be too long to read aloud to the group from beginning to end in one session. Try to ensure that each shadower is given a chance to read it to themselves.
- * Look closely at a range of pictures and ask the group to point out to each other anything that strikes them as interesting about the artwork.
- * Chat, in pairs or as a group, about whether they enjoyed *Where my Wellies Take Me*. What did they like or dislike and why?

Look again

When you have discussed your first responses, return to the book, look, think and talk more about the artwork. When considering the artistic quality of *Where my Wellies Take Me* readers need to take into account far more than the illustrations.

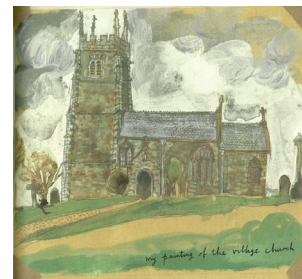
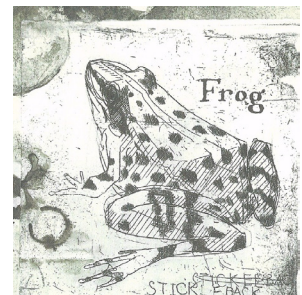
Unlike all the other books on the Greenaway shortlist, it is a composite of many types of text and every aspect of the book's construction contributes to the visual impact of the finished object. Readers need to look at:

- illustrations (sketches in pencil charcoal & inks, drawings, paintings etc.)
- typography (all forms of writing & print)
- layout (how the contents of a page are placed together)
- additional flaps and extra inserts (extended pages, fold out maps etc.)
- overall artistic impact

It is interesting to consider what inspired the choices made by the designers of the book regarding how much space to give each feature on each space is given most prominence. For example:

- What is the most prominent feature of the front cover?
- Part of the picture on page 15 is upside down. Why do you think that is?
- Count how many different features there are on page 43 (e.g. a poem, a drawn set of instructions, paper flaps etc.) Can you find other pages with as many different features?
- Why is there handwriting across the field on page 75?

There are so many different styles, media and methods used throughout the book. It would be interesting to see which page each shadower chooses as their favourite. Talk about any visual aspect of the book that interests you, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. Do these 'extras' to the story contribute to the overall impact of the book?



Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to use tasks which require imaginative response to encourage students to engage fully with the text. The following suggestions may help the group of young readers to become engrossed in the book.

Discussion

People differ in their opinions about art and there is no right or wrong way to illustrate or create images. What do you think makes the most effective presentation in a book of this sort? Do the sketchy unfinished-looking drawings add a sense of spontaneity? Is the page design meant to look like a scrapbook of bits and pieces? Does it work? Which style of presentation do each of you prefer?



Art

The poetry in *Where my Wellies Take Me* are poems remember with fondness from having been read to the authors during childhood. Can the shadowers remember enjoying anything that was read to them when they were younger? They could each design a page to display their favourite rhyme. The page could be produced by hand or on screen using a suitable art program.

Get outside

A book like *Where my Wellies Take Me* may motivate readers to get outside. Pupils used to go on school nature walks and were encouraged to look around at the environment. Also children were allowed to wander more freely at the time when the Morpurgos were young. If possible it would be great to take the shadowers outside. At any time during the year there is something growing (even if it is only the hedges in gardens or grass on the playing field) and there may be some really interesting buildings that are usually ignored. If possible, take some clip boards, drawing paper and pencils and try sketching a familiar local scene or details of a growing plant or tree.

