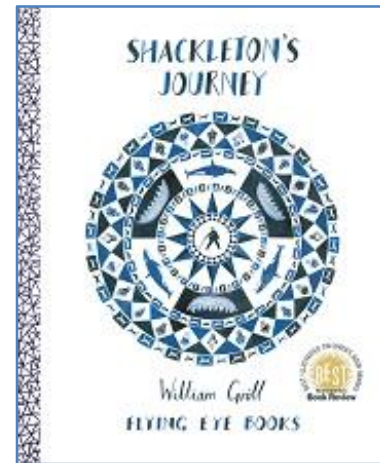


Title: **Shackleton's Journey**

Author/illustrator: **William Grill**

Publisher: **Flying Eye Books**



First look

- Let each shadower have a chance to read *Shackleton's Journey* to themselves (or with a friend) before working with the book.
- Go through the book from beginning to end looking at the pictures together. 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 what they enjoyed about *Shackleton's Journey*. Do they have any criticisms of the book?

Look again

It is conventional for an information book about exploration to use photographs, charts, diagrams and maps in addition to other artwork. Which of these can you find in this non-fiction text? Are they presented in a traditional way?

- How do all the forms of illustration add information to the written text? Look at the detailed drawings of people, dogs and equipment. Do these pages help you imagine what it was like to plan and organise an expedition of this scale?
- The drawings may attract the reader to investigate every detail. Look at pages 35 & 36 to see vignettes of everyday life in Ocean Camp. Are there other pages that attract attention to detail in this way?
- Look at the ways the page layouts changes throughout the book. On pages 27-28, for example, there are four little scenes followed by one bigger one. On pages 41-42, the story is told like a comic strip – six pictures per page with a caption for each one. Can you find any other different layouts? Is there a reason for the variety of ways that pages are of designed?
- Practical information - about such things as stores, ship building and the number of dogs - is quite straightforward to show in pictures. It is not so easy to depict how the men must have felt to be on the ship, *Endurance*, in dangerous, freezing conditions. Look at pages 19-20, 45-46 and 49-50. How does each double page picture help you to imagine how the explorers may have been feeling?



Talk about any visual aspect of the book that interests you, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do the end papers add to the 'feeling' of the book? Do all these extra aspects of design 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

Shackleton and his team made the treacherous journey to the Antarctic at a time when there was no means of communication, no light waterproof clothing and no easy way they could be rescued. What do you think made them want to take such risks and spend so much money on the expedition? Was it worth it? Would you be prepared to do something as adventurous as that?

English

Write a short piece of writing entitled *Isolation*.

Look at pages 29-30. Work with friends to write a short description of this scene. Write as though you were there in that small ship. What courage and endurance they must have had to survive. Try to capture the feelings of fear and loneliness the explorers must have had. Use the glossary at the back of the book to help with any specialist vocabulary.

Music

Find a version of Vaughn Williams' *Sinfonia Antarctica* (the music that accompanied the film *Scott of the Antarctic*) and listen to the first movement. Does the music help you to imagine the Antarctic? If you have access to YouTube, there is a good version which has pictures of the Antarctic on screen as you listen.

Art

Most of the artwork in *Shackleton's Journey* is done with crayon. Chalks, pastels and pens would also be effective to produce a drawing. Use white paper or dark blue sugar paper to create a scene from the story in the style of William Grill.

