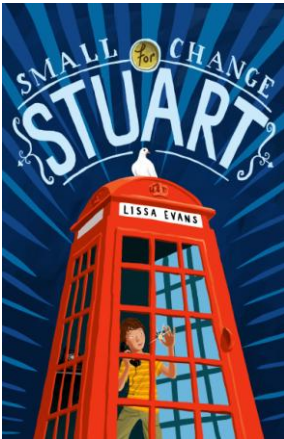


TALKING POINTS

CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2012



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans

THE WORLD OF STUART

- What does being exceptionally short mean for Stuart?
- Why might his reduced height help him in his chosen career?

RESEARCH/ DISPLAY/ SHARE: Many comedians and other entertainers are slightly built, and have often chosen to work with taller or larger stage partners.

- Why might this be?
- Collect images of famous solo and double acts for a captioned display.

STUART'S PARENTS

- Why do Stuart's parents worry about him?
- How do they show they are worried?
- How is their way of understanding the world different from Stuart's?
- Despite trying hard to do their best for Stuart, what do they fail to notice about him?
- What does Stuart like to do when he is confused, miserable or tired?

WAYS WITH WORDS: SPEECH

- Stuart has learned to understand his father's speech: why is it different from everyday speech?
- Could Stuart speak like his father if he wanted to?
- Why doesn't he?
- What does Stuart find most annoying about April, the first triplet that he meets?

WAYS WITH WORDS: WRITING

- Why is Stuart more self-conscious about his name when it is written down?
- The title of the book is a pun with at least two meanings, what are they?
- Signs and notices are very important to Stuart in his quest to find his great-uncle Tony's workshop. What does he learn about language from following the clue GRAVEST FLATE?
- How does it help him that his father is very good at crosswords?
- In the newspaper produced by the triplets, how is April's contribution more interesting than her sisters'?
- Stuart often quotes modern notices and signs in full. Find some examples. Why does he do this and what effect does it have on the reader?



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TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Stuart discovered that his great-uncle, Tony Horten, did not practice magic as a wizard might, but built machines ("Miraculous Mechanisms") to achieve the effects he wanted.

- What skills would Tony Horten have needed to create his Marvellous Mechanisms?
- Which of his inventions is most likely to depend on magic after all?

UNCOVER THE PAST: Like Stuart, use reference books, museums, your local history library and/or public library and the memories of older family members and neighbours to find out which buildings in your town have disappeared since the Second World War and which, if any, have left a few remnants.

- Map out a trail of possible sites and artefacts that connect your generation to your town 60 or 70 years ago.
- Collect images of these links to the past.
- Create a display about your findings.

FIND OUT MORE: Using reference books and the internet, research the great age of magic shows as experienced by the Great Hortini: the 19th and early 20th century.

- Design a poster for performances by the Great Hortini and by Stuart 10 years in the future, after he has learned his great-uncle's secrets.
- Write reviews of the performances.
- Visit www.youngmagiciansclub.co.uk, which runs workshops and publishes a newsletter for 10 to 18-year-olds who want to perfect their magician skills.



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