

**Harry and Hopper**  
**Written by Margaret Wild and Illustrated by Freya Blackwood**  
**ISBN 978-1-407111-39-1**

*Use the first double page spread "When the puppy came to live with Harry and Dad..."*

Working in pairs, encourage children to explore the picture discussing their responses and working together to make meaning of what they see. Ask them to jot down words and phrases, which reflect their responses to looking.

**The aims of this activity are:**

- to increase the interaction with and enjoyment of picture books for children of all ages
- to develop children's confidence and vocabulary to respond to what they see – to observe and describe
- to encourage them to build on their previous experience, imagination and understanding to make sense of visual information – to interpret
- to consider a variety of graphic forms and their interaction with a text in order to convey layers of meaning – to appreciate
- to recognise different styles and techniques used and developed by a variety of illustrators – to analyse
- to begin to recognise and appreciate visual metaphor, irony, puns and jokes etc. – to participate

The following questions have been designed to help children to look more closely at the illustrative work of Freya Blackwood moving from the whole picture to the smallest part and to search for and use all available clues given by the artist to make meaning. Please select and adapt the questions to make them appropriate for your setting.

**TELL ME ABOUT FREYA BLACKWOOD'S ILLUSTRATION...**

What is your initial impression of these two pages?

What did you do first, read the words or read the pictures?

How has the layout and shape of this page influenced the way you have read it?

There are no borders to this page, and the background is plain white with no details. Where do you think Hopper has bounded in from?

Why hasn't the illustrator provided a background for this scene? Does it matter?

How has the illustrator involved you in the creation of this scene?

What setting has she helped you to create in your mind's eye?

Where do you think this part of the story is taking place?

What materials do you think the illustrator has used to draw this picture?

Why do you think she has drawn the dog so loosely and not 'rubbed out' any of her sketch lines?

Where does the movement and energy come from in this picture?

What words would you use to describe the ways that Hopper moves?

The gutter is the central part of the book where the pages are stitched together. The illustrator has taken the picture across the gutter, what impact does this have on the speed at which Hopper is crossing the page towards Harry?

What does Hopper's movement tell you about his personality and his relationship with Harry?

What are the predominant colours used on these pages?

What do you notice about the application of colour?

Where is the colour and how does it help to focus your attention?

Hopper's black spots and patches go over the edge of the drawn lines in places, what is the effect of this?

If there were sound effects on this page, what would you hear?

What time of day do you think this is?

How does this page make you feel?

What is the relationship between Harry and Hopper?

How has Freya Blackwood demonstrated the love between Harry and Hopper?

How would you describe Harry's posture? How has he ended up rolling back on the floor in this way?

Look at Harry's face, his eyes are closed, what does this suggest to you about the way he is feeling?

Do you think Harry minds Hopper climbing all over him?

How old do you think Harry might be?

What can you tell about Harry's personality from this illustration? What clues has the illustrator given you?

In what ways do the words interact with the illustration?

Why do you think the dog is so important to Harry?

When a story starts with so much energy and love, how does it help you anticipate what might happen next?

### **WRITE IT DOWN**

Harvest children's responses and record their descriptions and comments on a flip chart. Are there any aspects of the picture that they find particularly interesting or puzzling? How do these pictures interact and work with the rest of the book?