

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR MASTERCLASSES

NOTES FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

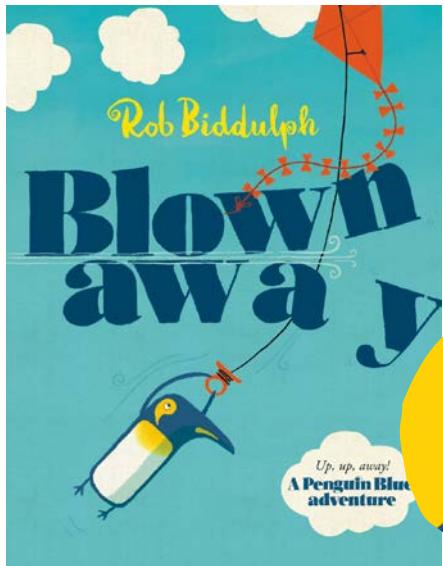
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ROB BIDDULPH: TELLING STORIES WITH PICTURES



BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

GET IN THE ZONE!

In his video, Rob Biddulph describes how he gets ‘two chances’ to tell his story: through words AND pictures! He explains that words and pictures should complement each other; they should provide clues to the story.

Get children to have a go at creating their own words and pictures for a single scene. Using an A4 sheet of paper, ask them to draw one large box in the middle of it. Inside the box, they should draw a picture of something that happened to them today – e.g. maybe their parents dropped them off at the school gate, or maybe they did a test in their maths lesson, or maybe they ate an apple at break time. Next to their picture, outside of the box, they should write one sentence that describes what is

happening, e.g. ‘Today my parents dropped me off at the school gate’; ‘Today I did a test in my maths lesson’; ‘Today I ate an apple’. Ask pupils: how can they show something more in the picture that they draw? How can they provide more detail? For example, maybe they can also draw their **facial expressions** to show how they **felt** in the scene.

Share each other’s scenes. Can pupils list at least **two** details that they can see in the words and the picture?

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you see the title of Rob Biddulph’s book, *Blown Away*? What do you **predict** the story might be about?
2. Read out all of page 1 of *Blown Away* as a class. Which words sound the same? What do we call it when two words sound the same? Does it make it more fun to read? Why?
3. Can you draw the scene that Rob sets in the first four lines of *Blown Away*? What object is in the scene? What is the weather like? Who is the main character?
4. What do Jeff and Flo try to ‘save’ Penguin Blue from? Are they successful? What happens instead?
5. What do the illustrations show you that Wilbur is doing before he gets taken on the flight? What do they tell you about him?
6. How many characters ‘join the flight’ altogether in the extract

FUN ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1: LIKE MAKING A FILM

Rob believes that making a picture book is like making a film; he casts the characters, directs the film and writes the script!

- In groups, re-read the extract from *Blown Away* and imagine that you have been asked to make the next scene in the story as a film. First of all, think about what the characters will do next – what setting will they be in? Who will they meet? What will they be worried about?
- Write a script together showing what happens, including dialogue between characters, props and stage directions.
- Practice performing your scene as a group, where one of you is the director of the film.

ACTIVITY 2: IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

Rob says that one way illustration can tell a story is by adding levels of detail. You can spot different details each time you read a book. In Blown Away, for example, the character of the monkey features in the background on the early pages – but becomes very important to the plot in the end!

- Re-read the extract from *Blown Away*. Choose an object or character from the illustrations that seems only to be in the background of the story.
- Predict the rest of the story for the object or character that you have chosen. Draw the next four pages of the book written from the point of view of that character or object. What happens? How might your chosen object or character affect the main story of Penguin Blue and his friends?

ACTIVITY 3: A BRAND NEW KITE!

In the extract from Blown Away, Penguin Blue is pulled up to the sky by a 'brand new kite'. If you could have a brand new kite, what would it look like? ...

- Imagine that you have been asked to design your own brand new kite to take you on a journey. First of all, use lots of coloured paper to create an A3-sized template in the shape of a diamond. Mount your template on a piece of cardboard to make it stronger.
- On a separate piece of paper, come up with ideas for how to decorate your kite so that it represents your personality. For example, what is your favourite colour? Your favourite hobby? Your favourite object? How can you include them on your kite design? Using everything you've learned about adding details to your illustrations and designs, tell us the whole story of your personality! Create a classroom display of all of your kites.

SHARE A STORY

Rob Biddulph creates beautiful, funny stories with both words and pictures. Some details about the story are revealed in the text and some are revealed in the pictures. Can you think of another book that uses lots of small details to tell a big story? Take ten minutes to share it with your classmates, teachers, friends or family.

SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION...

AN INSPIRING SHARE A STORY CHALLENGE FOR YOU:

Including a quick recap of the expert advice from Rob:

Draw, sketch or paint a series of images that tell a story, without using any words!

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more fascinating Masterclass films and resources featuring amazing authors and illustrators over at worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses. Don't miss out, download them today!