

## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann (Flying Eye Books)



#### 1. Explore it

Read the spread from the book below, and take time to look carefully at the illustration:



Talk together about what you have heard and seen. What is happening here? What does it make you think about? How does it make you feel? What makes you feel this way?

Take some time to focus in on the polar bear. Look carefully at how it holds its body and its gaze and facial expression. How do you think it got here? What do you think it is thinking or feeling? What makes you think this? Do you think the bear is supposed to be here? What makes you think this? What might have brought it here?

Now look at the crow. How do you think it feels seeing this scene? How can you tell? What do you think the white lines drawn around its face are trying to express? What do you think the crow might be thinking or saying? You could write a speech or thought bubble for the crow and stick it on to the illustration to share your ideas.

Consider where this might be happening. Look carefully at the details and colour in the illustration. What is this place like? What can you see in the landscape? What time of day do you think it is? Where in the world do you think it might be?

#### 2. Illustrate it

We know from the last line that the bear is headed **towards the shore**. What is a shore? Look this word up in a dictionary to check if you are not sure or to confirm if you think you have an idea. What do you think will happen when the bear gets there? What sort of setting might it find itself in? Who or what might the

bear be greeted by? Will the crow follow it? Think about how Sandra Dieckmann showed us how the bear was feeling in the illustration. How will the bear feel when it reaches the shore? How might it react to what it sees? How could you show this in your drawing? If you want to express a certain emotion, try doing this yourself and looking in a mirror. What is your face and body doing to show the emotion? How could you use this to show what the polar bear might be doing?

When you have a clear picture in your mind. Take a pencil and a piece of paper and start to draw what you see in your mind's eye. If you have coloured pencils, felt tips or crayons, you could think about the colours you use to bring your scene to life and create a mood, as Sandra Dieckmann did in the illustration you saw.

### 3. Talk about it

- The polar bear is described as a **strange white creature**. Why do you think the author has chosen to describe it in this way? What does it make you think about? How does it make you feel about the bear? Do you think this is how the bear sees itself? Who might see the bear in this way and why?
- Think about the verb chosen to describe how the polar bear was travelling – **carried**. What does this suggest to you? Do you think it has chosen to make this journey? Why or why not?
- Think about the adjective used to describe the waters – **dark**. What does this make you think about? How does it make you feel about the bear and its situation?

### 4. Imagine it

How do you think the polar bear came to be here? Where do you think its journey began? Do you know where polar bears live and what this place is like? What is his story? Who might he have left behind? What has he seen and experienced? If you have a globe or atlas in your home, see if you can find the Arctic and then look for places south of this where he might land. What would his journey look like? As well as creatures like blue whales and crows, who else would he encounter? You can find out more about the impact of climate change on animals like polar bears who are forced to travel further and further to find food as the ice diminishes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-42909866>

### 5. Create it

Think about the journeys you and your family make or have made before. What places do you or your family travel to and from in your local area? Maybe you take a regular trip to the park or to the shops or school. Who do you meet along the way? Are there any special sights or regular experiences that you look forward to?

Do you ever go further afield, maybe to see friends or family or on holiday? Is there anything that makes these journeys memorable or fun? How do you pass the time? Who experiences these journeys with you?

Perhaps someone in your family has a story to tell about a journey they have taken that is particularly important. Maybe they or someone in the past has left one home and made another somewhere else. What was that like? Who helped them find belonging? Ask people in your family if they are happy to share these stories with you. Maybe they could help you find the places they talk about on a map or in an atlas and help you imagine any journey taken. Create a special book in which you can draw and write about different family journeys.