

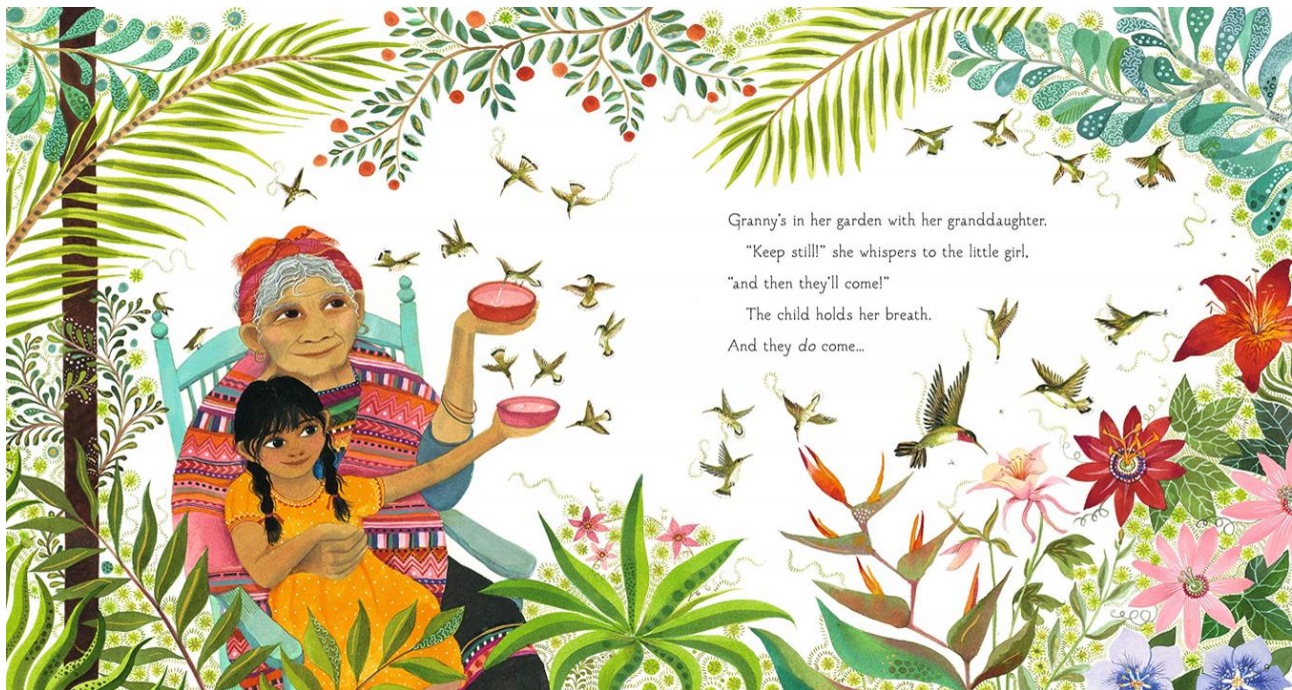
## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### *Hummingbird* by Nicola Davies and Jane Ray (Walker)



#### 1. Explore it

Look at the illustration and read the text below:



What do you think is happening in this picture? Where do you think the grandmother and granddaughter might be sitting, what kind of a place, and where in the world? How do you know? What do you think it might be like to be there? What do you think they might be doing? Why?

Now look at the front cover of the book above and read the title. Do you know anything about hummingbirds, for example, where they live or what they eat? Look carefully: what do you see them doing in this picture? What questions do you have about what you have seen and read?

#### 2. Illustrate it

Look again carefully at the illustration of the grandmother and granddaughter feeding the hummingbirds in their garden. What do you notice about the birds, their beaks and feathers, the shape of their wings and how they fly? What is special about them? How would you describe them?

Could you look in the same careful and thoughtful way at a bird you can see where you live — your balcony or garden if you have one, but maybe a park, public garden or square? How is the bird you have seen different from others? What is the same? Consider its size, the way it flies and walks or hops. What colour are its feathers? What is its body shape? What does its beak look like — long or short, straight or curved, pointed or like a wedge? If it moves too fast or too much to see, you could use this page <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/> to check what you have seen.

Now draw or paint your bird. Will you show it flying or at rest, walking or hopping, feeding or drinking or bathing: what will show it to best effect? Include as much detail as you can. Show your illustration to someone else to see if they know the bird from the way you have drawn it. What were the details you captured that helped them to recognise it?

### 3. Talk about it

- How are the birds and plants you see in Granny's garden similar to or different from the ones you see where you live? How would you describe them?
- Why do you think Granny tells her granddaughter to keep still? What difference does it make to the birds if both stay silent and still? Why do you think the birds **do** come; what attracts them?
- Why do you think the little girl might find it difficult to keep still? Have you ever had to stay still and quiet? When? Why was it difficult?
- Why do you think Granny feeds the hummingbirds? What do you think people get from observing and interacting with nature like this?

### 4. Imagine it

We see this page from the point of view of Granny and her granddaughter excitedly — but calmly! — hoping to attract hummingbirds to their dishes. Imagine now that you are a hummingbird, visiting Granny's garden. Is it the first time you have visited, or have you been before? Do you know Granny, is this the first time you have encountered her granddaughter? How would you describe her garden, the plants and trees, especially the flowers? Is this your family you are flying in with, who is with you? And what's in those dishes the old lady and the little girl are holding out to you? Do you want to try it? Why? Why not? What might tempt you closer to taste? What might put you off? Write a piece in role as a hummingbird, capturing your unique view of this visit to the garden, explaining things in your own words and describing your feelings about it for someone else to read. You could draw your own 'bird's eye view' of the scene and add thought or speech bubbles around it to voice the feelings you think to yourself or tweet to your fellow hummingbirds. Find out more about ruby-throated hummingbirds — if you want to know a little more before you write — at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lpE8NaGVKA&ab\\_channel=AnimalFactFiles](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lpE8NaGVKA&ab_channel=AnimalFactFiles).

### 5. Create it

Granny and the little girl take pleasure from observing and appreciating the world around them by sitting quiet and still. We don't have hummingbirds in the UK, but we **do** have a wide variety of fascinating and beautiful birds, mammals and other creatures you could observe and find out more about. The key, as Granny says, is to 'keep still'! Choose one particular creature to focus on: be guided by what you see most where you live — it may be birds you see from your window, ants in your garden, squirrels in a park, pigeons in a town square. How much can you find out from keeping still, observing and noticing? What details about its appearance, habitat, feeding, habits and interaction with other creatures including Man do you find out, supplementing what you observe with what you can find out through research you might be able to do at home or school or a library. Remember though, your personal careful observations make you the expert on your creature of study: this is exactly what Gilbert White, one of the world's first and most famous naturalists did! Now think how you could share what you find out: could you write a simple guide, a Top Trump card, the script for a wildlife film, a webpage, an entry in an encyclopaedia? Perhaps you might also like to illustrate your work. Share what you write with someone else and see what they think of what you have found out, and whether they can suggest any improvements.