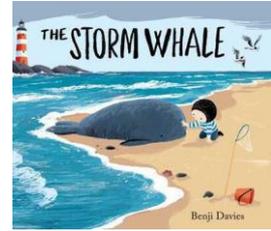
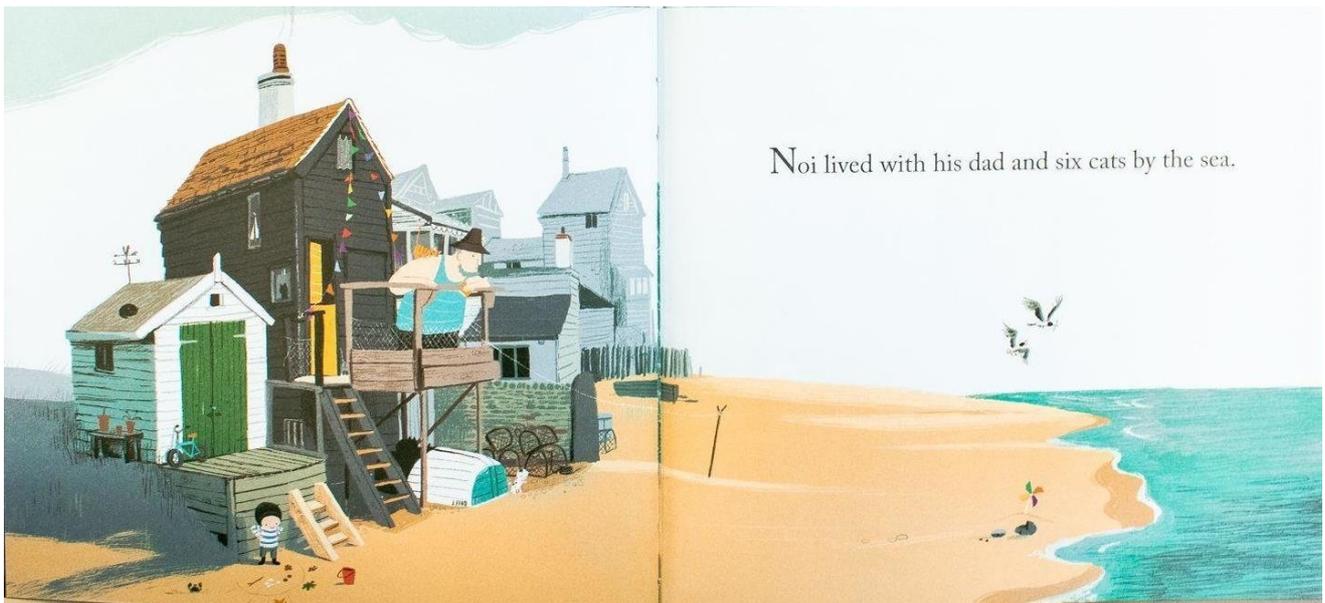


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning The Storm Whale by Benji Davies (Simon and Schuster)



1. Explore it

Look at the spread from the book below. Concentrate first on what you see in the illustration:



What do you notice first when you look at this scene? Where is this? How would you describe this place? Is it like anywhere you have seen before in real life or stories? Now, tune in to look more closely at what you can see. If you have a magnifying glass, you could use this to tune into the smaller details. Is there anything you find particularly interesting about this scene? Why? Who are these people? How might they be connected? What do you think they are doing? What might they be thinking?

Now read the text. Who do you think is Noi in the picture? What do you learn about his life from this scene? What do you think it might be like for him living by the sea with his dad? How would you describe him; not just his appearance but his behaviour, thoughts and feelings? How many of his six cats can you see in the picture? Do you have any pets yourself? What do you think it would be like to live with six cats?

2. Illustrate it

Think about where Noi lives. What is special about his home by the sea? Look closely at the outside of his house, which is shown in the illustration. How would you describe it? How do you think it has been constructed? What do you like about it?

What do you think it looks like on the inside? You might think about the house as a whole, or one of the rooms specifically, like the kitchen or Noi's bedroom.

Take a piece of paper and a pencil, if you don't have paper to hand, the back of an old letter or envelope will do. Have a go at drawing a part of Noi's house by the sea. What features will you include? Will any of the characters you hear about in this spread feature in your drawing? What will they be doing? If you have

coloured pencils or crayons, you might think about the colours that might appear inside the house. Share your drawing and talk about why you think it is special.

3. Talk about it

Look at the front cover and read the title. What do you notice? What is happening here? What is Noi doing?

- What do you think you learn about Noi and his dad from looking at this spread? What do you think they are like? What do you think they like to do? What kind of relationship do you think they have?
- What do you think it is like to live in a place like this? How does it compare or contrast with the place you live? Do you think you would like to live here? Why or why not?
- Why do you think this book is called *The Storm Whale*?
- What do you think will happen in the rest of the story? What makes you think this?

4. Imagine it

Look again at the picture of where Noi lives. Imagine the kinds of things Noi like to do on the island. What kinds of games might he play with his collection of seaside objects?

Think about who else he might know or play with. How are animals and nature part of his life? What kinds of stories would he tell you?

Draw Noi enjoying different activities by the sea, perhaps on his own, with friends, his dad or with his animal friends. You could draw or write stories he might tell about his life.

5. Create it

Noi lives with his dad and six cats by the sea. How is your home the same or different to Noi's seaside home? Where do you live? Who lives with you? What do you like about your neighbourhood? What kinds of things do you like to do for fun?

Create a guide to your neighbourhood or where you live. You might start by drawing the outside of your house, your street or somewhere local that you particularly like to visit, like a park, your local shops, a wood, or the sea, if you live in a setting similar to Noi. If you were going to write about this place to tell other people about it, what would you share with other people who might visit?

What kinds of things could they look at or do? Who could they meet? What kinds of stories might you tell about things that have happened to you or others in this place? You could take inspiration from television programmes like CBeebies' *Apple Tree House* which celebrates inner city life or that inspired by Marie Hedderwick's *Katie Morag* which celebrates life on a remote Scottish island.

Learn more about author/illustrator Benji Davies' picturebook making process on CLPE's Power of Pictures website: <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/davies-benji>