



## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### The King Who Banned the Dark

Written and Illustrated by Emily Haworth-Booth (Pavillion)

#### Explore it

Read the text below and take time to look carefully at the illustrations:



Consider what is happening in this scene. What time of day is it? How can you tell?

Now look at the character that you can see in this scene. What are they doing? How do you think they feel? What makes you think this? How do the words and the pictures work together to make you know that he is afraid? Think about this from your own experience. Have you ever felt afraid of something? What helped you to feel better? What do you think could help this character, here?

Look carefully at the setting. What more do you think you might know about this person from the room they are in? Do you think this is their room? What makes you think that? What do you notice about the objects in the room? What clues could they give us about this character's life?

#### 2. Illustrate it

In this scene, you see how this person reacts to the dark. Imagine it is the next morning and the whole room is lit up and bathed in sunlight. How do you think the person in the bed will feel now? How could you show their feelings, through the way they are placed in the scene? Will they still be in bed, cowering under the covers? Where will they be in the room? What will they be doing? What will their facial expression and body position look like?

When you can picture the scene clearly in your mind, take a pencil and a piece of paper - if you don't have any to hand, use the back of an old letter or envelope - and redraw the room, showing a scene from the day time.

Look again at how the illustrator has shown the dark using a variety of shading with her pencil. A lot of the shading is very heavy. Think carefully about how you will use your pencil in the scene to represent the light. If you have coloured pencils, felt tips or crayons to hand, you could think about other colours you could use to show the change from dark to light.

When you have finished, hold your scene next to the original illustration. Can you see the contrast between the light and dark?

### 3. Talk about it

- Do you agree that *there's nothing so unusual* about being afraid of the dark? Why do you think this is such a common fear?
- Think about the way the author chooses to start the story: *There was once a little boy who was afraid of the dark*. What does this opening make you think could happen in the rest of the story?
- What has the illustrator done in the illustration to make you feel the fear the boy feels in this moment?

### 4. Imagine it

Think about the sentence used at the end of the text: *Most children are afraid of the dark at one time or another*. What would you do if you knew a child who was afraid of the dark? How would you react? If you were afraid of something, how would you want other people to react? What would you want them to say or do?

What ideas do you have that could provide comfort to someone who was afraid of the dark? What would you say to them? What could you do for them? Make a list of the ideas that you have come up with.

### 5. Create it

Think about supportive ways to help people deal with their fears. What other fears might people have? Is it wrong to feel fear? Should people feel ashamed about being frightened of something?

Design a leaflet or a poster to support people who feel afraid about something. You could focus on a specific fear, or just fear as a whole. What would you want to say to them about feelings of fear? What advice could you give to help them if they are feeling afraid? How will you reassure people that everyone feels fear at some time in their life? Think about the reassuring line in the text: *Most children are afraid of the dark at one time or another*. How could you use supportive phrases like this in your writing?

What ideas do you have for someone to feel more relaxed if they are feeling afraid? What could you say to a person who is afraid or what could you suggest they do?

Think about how you will organise your ideas – will you have different sections? How will you introduce these? Will you use images as well as words? Could you use *Why not try...* tips?

Design and complete your advice poster or leaflet, you could hand make this or use a computer, then share it with someone else at home. Do they think this is good advice? Would it be supportive to someone who is afraid?