

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

If all the world were... by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Alison Colpoys (Quarto)



1. Explore it

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



Take some time to think about what you read and saw. Who can you see in the pictures? Who is the story focussed on? Look carefully at the characters and re-read the words again. What are they doing? Are they both enjoying this activity? Now look carefully at the illustrations. What do you think you know about the relationship between the girl and her Grandad? How do you know this? Do you think they like spending time together? What tells you this? Who do you think the other characters in the background are? What are they doing?

Now think about the setting. Where is this part of the story taking place? When is it happening? What is it like there? What do you think they will be doing next? What makes you think this? Think about the opening sentence – It's summer. If this sentence wasn't here, would you know what time of year this was? How?

2. Illustrate it

Think again about the summer scene that you see described here. What colours has the illustrator used? Why do you think she has used these colours? What else do they make you think of that is associated with summer?

Now think about a different season – spring. What colours do you think of when you think of this season? What happens in spring that makes you think of these colours? What do you think the girl and her Grandad

do in the spring? Where might they be? What scenery might be in the background? When you have a clear picture in your mind, take a pencil and a piece of paper and draw the scene you see. If you don't have paper to hand, you can use the back of an old letter or envelope.

If you have some coloured pencils, felt tips or crayons, you could think about which colours you'll use to bring this spring scene to life, as Allison Colpoys has in the summer scene.

3. Talk about it

- How much time do you think they spend playing with the car set? What makes you think this?
- What does it mean when the girl says that the racing track is **second-hand**? Do you think it matters to her? Even when there are **missing bits**?
- Look carefully at the illustrations of the girl and her Grandad. How can you tell that they have a really close relationship? How do they feel about being in each other's company?

4. Imagine it

Think about what you like to do in the summer. How do you like to spend your time? Do you have favourite things to do? Look at the food and drink her mum and dad are laying out on the table. Do you have a favourite thing to eat or drink when it's hot like this?

Now, think back to all your memories of summer days. Do you have a favourite memory of a day you have spent in the summer time? What made this day particularly memorable for you? Who was there? What were you doing? How did you feel?

5. Create it

Think about the special relationship that the girl and her Grandad have together. Who do you have in your life that you like to spend time with? It might be a grandparent like the girl in the book, it might be another relative, a brother, sister, aunt, uncle or cousin. It may be a special friend who you spend lots of time with. Think about why this person is special to you, and why you like to spend time with this person.

What special memories do you have about this person? Does one stick out to you, like in the story, where they are playing together with the racing track, or can you remember lots of different special times with this person. Perhaps you have some photographs of the times you've spent with this person, that you can look through to remind you.

When you have a moment, or several moments in your mind, pick the one that stands out most to you and use drawing and writing to share these moments. What moments will you choose to draw? How will you choose to write about these? Will you draw one large drawing, or will you add other small drawings to show how the event developed, like in the spread you saw.

Describe your moment in writing to go alongside your drawing, explaining what is happening in the pictures and how you and your special person enjoyed this time together. When you have finished, share this with someone else and talk about this moment in more detail. If you can, share it with the person you were writing about – do they remember the moment you are sharing? What else do they remember about this time?

Watch author Joseph Coelho read the book here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWnBn6sZzXE>

N.B. The book is about how a child deals with the death of a relative and how they come to terms with that loss. It is a very hopeful and positive book but, because the subject matter is very sensitive, it is important to watch this yourself before you share it with your child.