

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

Look Up! by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola (Puffin)

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 is the main character? What do you think you know about her from the spread? What is she wearing? What might this mean?

Now think about how her mother describes her, saying that her *'head is always floating in the clouds'*. What does this really mean? What does this tell us about her personality? What do you think she is looking at out of the window? Why do you think this?

Now think about the setting. Where is this story taking place? What is it like there? Who else is with the character? What do you know about these people?

Think about the similarities between this scene and your own life. What is your own family like? Do you have any pets? What are they like? Do they have toys and other objects that belong to them like this girl's cat has?

2. Illustrate it

Think again about what the girl might be looking at outside the window. Follow her gaze in the illustration, is she looking straight ahead, up or down? What might she see? What time of day is it? How do you know? What might she see outside at this time? Focus on her facial expression – how does she feel about what she sees? What might make her feel this way?

Try looking out of your own window for inspiration. Look in the same direction as the girl, what can you see? Can you see anything that makes you feel the same way as the girl does?

Take some time to imagine, then draw what you think the girl might see out of the window, using whatever you have to hand; the back of an envelope or old letter or cereal box will do if you don't have paper to hand.

Once you have drawn your picture, share your drawings with someone else if you can, or talk about what you have drawn with someone else. You might even want to make a frame for your drawing using some card from the recycling, to make it look more like a window.

3. Talk about it

- Why do you think the cat is dressed the same as the girl?
- How do you know the family care for the cat?
- Why do you think she describes her brother's mobile phone as silly?
- Do you know someone who is on their phone all the time? How does this impact on them and you?

4. Imagine it

Imagine you had an older brother like Jamal, who is always on his phone. What might he be using his phone for? How do you think the girl feels about him being on the phone all the time? What tells you this in the words or in the illustration? Why do you think she might want him to look up? What might she want him to do instead?

Now think; if you were the girl, how would you make him **LOOK UP** and take notice of you? Talk about these ideas with someone else, do they think these are good suggestions? You might want to write down your ideas in a letter to the girl to give her your advice.

5. Create it

Think about your own family and life at home. If you were going to draw a picture of what your everyday life was like, what would you draw? How would you write about your family? Do you have a brother, like she does? Maybe you have a sister? If you are an only child, you might draw other people you live with, or other people that visit your house from your family or friends. Do you have a pet like her? Where do your family gather together? What do you do there? Which room would you draw in your scene? What would people be doing?

Now think about how other people in your family might describe you, in the way that the girl's mum does here. What do people say about you that you could share to give a picture of your character? What would you be doing in the scene?

Make your own spread in drawing and writing to share a scene from your home life. Make sure you include details that give a picture of a place in your home, what you do there and the other people at home with you. Talk to someone in your home about your work – do they recognise this scene? Do they think you have described your life as it is?