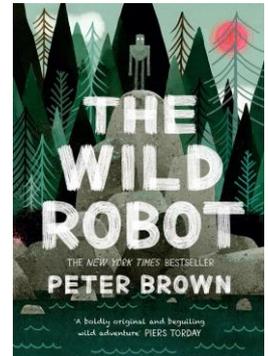


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (Piccadilly Press)

1. Explore it

Without sharing the book title, read this story opening. You might want to hear it read aloud as well as reading it for yourself.



Our story begins on the ocean, with wind and rain and thunder and lightning and waves. A hurricane roared and raged through the night. And in the middle of the chaos, a cargo ship was sinking

down

down

down

to the ocean floor.

The ship left hundreds of crates floating on the surface. But as the hurricane thrashed and swirled and knocked them around, the crates also began sinking into the depths. One after another,

they were swallowed up by the waves, until only five crates remained.

By morning the hurricane was gone. There were no clouds, no ships, no land in sight. There was only calm water and clear skies and those five crates lazily bobbing along an ocean current. Days passed. And then a smudge of green appeared on the horizon. As the crates drifted closer, the soft green shapes slowly sharpened into the hard edges of a wild rocky island.

The first crate rode to shore on a tumbling, rumbling wave and then crashed against the rocks with such force that the whole thing burst apart.

- What is happening in this extract? Who are the central characters? Can you summarise what you've read in a couple of sentences?
- Talk about how this story opening makes you feel and what you like or dislike about it. Does it remind you of anything you know in stories or real life? How?
- Think about how it is written. What parts of this really stick in your mind? Which words and phrases do you like the best? What do you like about them? Do they look or sound interesting? Do they help you make a picture in your mind? What do other people think?

2. Illustrate it

After you have read it a few times, take a pen or pencil and a bit of scrap paper. You can use the back of an old envelope or cereal packet; whatever is to hand. Draw what you see in your imagination. It can be shapes or shading - anything that captures the place and the mood of this story opening. Maybe other people in your family want to draw what they imagine as well. Remember, everyone has their own ideas and imagines things their own way. This is a good thing!

To get started, ask yourself:

- Where does our story begin?
- What happens? How do you know?
- How does it make me feel? Does this change?
- How can I show this in a drawing?

Re-read the opening and write some words and phrases that have helped you make your picture.

Share your drawings with each other or talk about what you have drawn with someone else:

- What do you like about each other's drawings? What is the same or different about your drawings?
- Why have you chosen to draw it this way? Which words and phrases helped you make a picture?

3. Talk about it

- Find and copy any words and phrases which show how forceful the hurricane was.
- Why did so many crates sink? What do you think happened to them?
- Think about the events on the night of the storm and in the following days. How would you report it on the news?

4. Imagine it

Look at the opening illustration:

Think about this:

- What do you think is inside the box?
What makes you think that?
- What other stories do you know about in books, on television or in films that have scenes like this?
- What happens in these stories?



5. Create it

Look at the front cover of the book. Is this what you expected? Why? Why not? Draw what you think this place is like.

- What kind of story world does the wild robot live in now?
- Who else might live here?

Look for clues in the illustrations and what you have read so far.

Use your story world drawing to map the robot's story. What story are you creating? What if it were a different character? What story could you make then?

Draw and write your story, trying out different ideas. Remember to use stories you already know and like for ideas. You could even publish your story in a handmade book by folding a piece of paper or on the computer, ready to share it with your teacher or your friends and family.