

Good Question Classroom Ideas

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These notes are for: Ages 4-7, Years F-1

Key learning areas: English

Example of: Picture book / fractured fairytale

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Themes:

Fairytales

Adventure

Before reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Make up your own story using the title *Good Question*.

Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? What characters can you see on the cover? Why do you think they might be looking at the fox? What type of story do you think *Good Question* might be?

The subtitle of this book is "A Tale Told Backwards." What is a subtitle? What do you think this subtitle could mean?

The Front Endpapers

What do the endpapers tell you about the setting of this story?

Identify/list all the characters you can find.

Follow the pathway from left to right and tell a story about your journey. What do you see? Smell? Hear? What were the characters doing? How did they react when they saw you? How did you feel? What did you do?

Exploring the Book

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

Good Question is an imaginative text. What do you think that means? How can you tell?

Fox goes through a range of feelings in the story. Look at each spread and discuss how Fox might be feeling (other than hungry). Discuss situations when students have felt the same way and why.

Think about the story from one of the other fairytale character's perspectives, like the giant, the wolf, or the fairy godmother. How might they see events differently to Fox? Is either

perspective right or wrong? Perhaps write or tell the giant's / wolf's / bears' / fairy godmother's story. What would they be thinking, feeling and saying? What might have happened after the fox left? How would the fox entering their "story" change the original story?

Fill in a Book Report Card for *Good Question*. Include: Title / Author / Illustrator / your favourite part / favourite character / favourite illustration / favourite sentence / what you liked about the book / what the author could have done better / who you think would enjoy it the most.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the cover of *Good Question* and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

The fox character is telling this story. He is talking directly to you, the reader. How does that make you feel? How would the story be different if it was told in a different way?

Identify each fairytale Fox goes through. Does reading *Good Question* make you think differently about any of your favourite fairytales? Why or why not? Did the fox belong in these stories? Why or why not?

The Ending

Why did the fox think it was now finally dinnertime? What did he see that made him think his luck might be changing?

How does this ending change what you know about the story of Henny Penny? Take a look at the final wordless spread with the hen, duck and goose following the fox. Tell the story of what happens next.

Final Endpapers

Compare these with the front endpapers. What has changed? Why?

Why do you think all the characters are chasing the fox? Do you think he will get away? Tell the story of what might happen next.

Exploring the Illustrations

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

On many spreads, several of the words are different sizes and shapes. Why do you think the book's designer has done this? How does it add to the story? How should you read the words in BOLD or capital letters etc.?

Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- How do you think Fox and the other characters are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
- Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?

- Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?

The illustrator, Annie White, has used digital collage to create the illustrations. She scanned different materials and used them to create different textures. Can you work out what she might have used? Take a look at the fox's fur, the giant's tunic, the trees' bark and leaves, the goose's body etc. Do you think this technique is effective? How might it look if Annie used only paint or pencil?

Annie White used leaf prints to create the leaves in the fox's tree. Can you create your own trees / forest using leaf printing and collage?

Creative Responses to the Text

Write your own "tale told backwards." What are some of the challenges writing a story this way?

Retell the fox's story starting at the beginning. You could start with something like this:
Once there was a very hungry fox ...

Choose a fairytale and write your own twisted version. What makes yours different from the original, and why did you choose to these changes?

Create a play based on *Good Question*. Assign actors to play the fox, the giant, Jack, the wolf, the pig, the three bears, the fairy godmother, horses and Henny Penny. Other students can manage props (like a tree) and effects (such as the wolf's belly growling). Perform your play at a school assembly.