

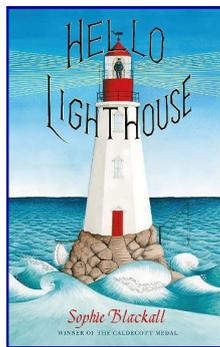
Hello Lighthouse

By Sophie Blackall

Publisher: Orchard Books / Hachette Children's Books

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A beautiful picture book about hope, change and the passing of time. Winner of the Caldecott Medal 2019. On the highest rock of a tiny island at the edge of the world stands a lighthouse. From dusk to dawn, the lighthouse beams, sending its light out to sea, guiding the ships on their way. As the seasons pass and the waves rise and fall, outside, the wind blows; inside, the lighthouse keeper writes, and the rhythms of his life unfold. But change is on the horizon...



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Hope
- Change
- Passing of time

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading:

- Show the children a picture of a lighthouse. What do you call a building like this? Why are lighthouses built? Where are lighthouses built? Have you ever visited a lighthouse? What was it like? What do you think it would be like to live in a lighthouse? What do you think might happen in the story? What characters do you think we will meet in the story? What might happen to the characters? Have you read any other stories which have a lighthouse as the setting?
- Reveal the title 'Hello Lighthouse'. Why do you think the author has given the story this title? Has your prediction changed?

Engaging With The Book:

- *Setting:* Ask the pupils to think of language to describe the setting, ensuring they think about the key senses e.g. what they can see, touch, hear and smell. Model the writing process and then get the pupils to write a description of the setting using the vocabulary gathered and shared. Show the pupils the different illustrations showing the lighthouse in the fog, in a storm etc. Discuss with the pupils how their vocabulary choices would change from the original description. Pupils can then use the new vocabulary to write a description of the setting which will create a different mood and atmosphere.
- *Diary Account:* Read about the lighthouse keeper rescuing the sailors from the storm. Create a diary/page from the logbook from the perspective of the lighthouse keeper. Think about the main event, 1st person and character thoughts and feelings.
- *List/Poster:* Explore the routine and chores of a lighthouse keeper and then write a list of the jobs or design a poster advertising the position. Make a list of adjectives to describe the lighthouse keeper.
- *Fact File:* Research information about whales using a range of resources such as non-fiction books and websites. Gather information about the animal's habitat, diet, lifespan, weight, length, offspring, distinguishing features, interesting facts etc. Information gathered could be recorded in different colours, on a mind map or on an annotated picture to group facts together. This research provides the pupils with a plan to create a fact file with sub-headings and paragraphs to organise information.