

Ford Street Publishing

Teacher's notes for 'Salih'

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Visual Literacy

Inquiry and provocation

- Explore the different contribution of words and images to meaning in stories and informative texts
 - Use the visual language to engage student responses and discussions.
 - Explore different ways of expressing emotions, including verbal, visual, body language and facial expressions.
 - Compare different kinds of images in narrative and informative texts and discuss how they contribute to meaning
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- Discuss the setting of the beginning of the story.
 - Is it real or imaginary? How do you know?
 - Why do the clouds have sad faces?
 - Discuss the gestures and body language of the displaced people heading to the sea.
 - Discuss the expressions of the people at the beginning of the book.
 - What is the significance of the turtle in Salih's bag?
 - What similarities can you make between Salih's feelings and the turtle?
 - Discuss how the colours make you feel on the double page: "I wish I could forget...deafening blasts..."
 - Discuss the use of birds throughout the book.
 - What memories does Salih draw? Why?
 - Discuss the expressions of the people 'taking turns with their brushes'.
 - Discuss the facial expressions and body language of the people in the 'slippery boat'.
 - Discuss how these people might be feeling. What makes you think that?
 - What do the empty bottles represent?

- Discuss the similarities between the dingy and the shell that Salih floats in across the calmer sea.
- What do you think Salih might be imagining as he sits in his 'shell' boat.
- Imagine how Salih might be feeling?
- Use descriptive words to discuss the abstract form of the 'furious waves'.
- Are the images of the waves confusing? What do these pages make you wonder?
- Do these images engage your imagination? Why? How?
- What do you wonder when you look at the page "we hold each other's hearts"
- Why has the illustrator chosen abstract shapes and texture to represent this page?
- What important symbols has the illustrator used to represent the words, "We hold each other's hearts...". Why?
- Why are there kites on the shore when the boat arrives?
- What does the kite page make you wonder?
- What is your favourite illustration? Why?

Literature:

Inquiry and provocation:

Discuss and identify the main character

- Who is Salih?
- Why is he the most important character in the book?
- Where does he live?
- What has he lost?
- Why is he leaving his home?
- How is he feeling about his situation? How do you know?
- What dangers and fears does Salih face?
- What do we not know about Salih yet? What questions do we have about Salih?
- What would you ask Salih if he came to visit you?

Discuss student responses to the ideas, characters and viewpoints in the text

- What does **displacement** mean?
- What is a refugee?
- Do you know someone like Salih?
- Has this happened to you? Have you been forced to leave your home in an emergency?
- Can you make a connection to Salih's loss?
- Why does Salih carry his home on his back?

- Would he have everything from his home in his bag? Why or why not?
- What is a memory?

Discuss student's connections with their own experiences

- What things do you have in your home?
- Would you pack different things into your bag if you were in a hurry? In an emergency?
- What would you miss the most?
- What would you leave behind?

Purpose and audience: Identify some differences between **imaginative and informative** texts

- What might people from other places pack that would be different from your belongings?
- What if you had a pet?
- What if it was too heavy?
- What would fit in the bag?
- List the essential things you might pack in your bag.
- Why does Salih have a turtle in his bag?
- How would you choose?
- What do you think Salih has put in his bag?
- Why is Salih inside a turtle shell as the 'sea calms and land appears on the horizon'?

Share **feelings and thoughts** about the events and characters in the text

- How would you feel if you had to leave your home?
- What do you think Salih has put in his bag?
- What sort of memories might he have packed? What objects might hold a memory?
- What would you put in your bag if you had to carry your home on your back like a turtle?