

Author & Illustrator ACADEMY



JULIA DONALDSON & LYDIA MONKS: BUILD A PICTURE BOOK THEATRE:

NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS



BRING A SCENE TO LIFE BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO OR READING THE EXTRACT:

Imagine you are in a farmyard. Think about the sights and sounds around you. Walk around the room, and every time you hear a clap from your teacher, friend or family member, switch into a new farmyard character, for example a pig, a sheep, or a hen. Move like the animal and make the correct animal noises – just for fun!

READ ALOUD TOGETHER! EXTRACT TAKEN FROM PAGES 4-7 OF *WHAT THE LADYBIRD HEARD*

1. Practice the different sounds on page 4. Which is your favourite? Why?
2. Why are the stage directions in grey important? Act out the scene using the directions.
3. Does reading aloud and acting help bring the story to life? How?

FIND INSPIRATION

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO, DEVELOP LYDIA'S IDEAS

INSPIRATION 1: TAKING INSPIRATION FROM REAL-LIFE ANIMALS

In the video, Lydia talks about how she takes inspiration from real life animals to draw pictures. She talks about making initial sketches and gradually using them to create the final images in her picture books.

- Imagine yourself as your favourite animal – it could be a pet, a wild animal, an insect or a bird!
- Walk around the room for five minutes, moving in ways that you think represents the animal that you have chosen. After five minutes, show everyone the movements you have chosen for your animal. Film your movements and watch them together. Which animals do you like the best?
- Use the different movements you have seen to draw your own animal gallery!

INSPIRATION 2: MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE STORY INTO A PLAY!

Lydia talks about the importance of bringing stories to life through plays. What can you do to make your favourite story into a play? How can you get creative with movement, sounds and props?

- Think about your favourite story. Then, read it aloud with someone else – maybe one of you could be the narrator and one could be the other characters (remember to give each of them a voice!).
- Try some acting, too. Think about how each character moves – do they get around on two legs, or four? Do they have wings? Do they move fast or slowly?
- Finally, put on a play at home or in your classroom. You might even use props and sound effects to really bring it to life!

CREATIVE CHALLENGE FROM LYDIA MONKS!

Now it's your turn... create your own picture book theatre! You can use old shoeboxes or pieces of cardboard, like Lydia does in the video, or something different to bring your scene to life.