

An introduction to activities to aid exploration of the Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist 2017

Notes for leaders of shadowing groups

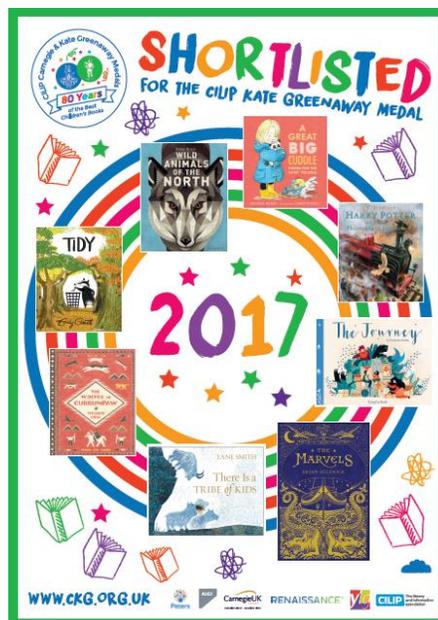
Looking Closely

Unlike any other book award, the Greenaway focuses entirely on 'outstanding artistic quality'.

The task of selecting one winner from the final shortlist involves looking at the range of artistic styles, choices of medium and the purposes of the artwork in each of the books. The artistic and design elements in picture books are just as important as the written text in the construction of meaning by readers.

It is important to consider each artist's choices of colour, line & shape and the use of space on each page. Remember, there is no one interpretation to a picture and no method of producing illustrations which is 'better' than another.

Individual members in any group will respond differently to art. Agreeing about one winning book will be achieved through discussion and probably a bit of compromise. Good luck!



Introducing the 2017 Greenaway books to shadowers

Illustrator	Title	Publisher
Dieter Braun	Wild Animals of the North	Flying Eye
Emily Gravett	Tidy	Two Hoots
William Grill	The Wolves of Currumpaw	Flying Eye
Jim Kay	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	Bloomsbury
Chris Riddell	A Great Big Cuddle	Walker
Francesca Sanna	The Journey	Flying Eye
Brian Selznick	The Marvels	Scholastic
Lane Smith	There Is A Tribe Of Kids	Two Hoots

Spend time looking slowly through each book yourself to see how you might use the suggested activities to match the amount of time you have with the shadowing group. The tasks are designed to encourage shared looking, critical thinking and discussion. They can be adapted to the strengths of the shadowing group and to fit the time available.



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Looking at the pictures

Each book requires slightly different ways of looking (see separate pages for each book) but there will be common factors in the artistic elements. Pictures are based on the choices made by each artist about their use of colour, shape, line and space. When judging the graphic elements in each book, we should ask:

- How do the members of the group feel about the images when they first look? Do they like the style of the pictures (e.g. are the pictures realistic, cartoon-like, line drawings, impressionistic etc.?)
- How do the artists' choices of colour, shape, line and space affect our interpretation?
- Do the artists' choices enhance the plot, characters or ideas at the heart of the book?
- How has the artist Is the selected medium effective?
- (e.g. collage, paint, photography, pencil)

Look again

Sometimes something in a picture can be overlooked the first time you look at it so always have a second close look at each one. Every visual aspect of the book adds more to meaning. For example, are the pictures like cartoons, sketchy or realistic? Can you find images or design features in other places in the book, such as the peritext (endpapers, title page, blurb, lettering and images on the front and back cover)?

Personal response

Ultimately, making judgements will depend on the personal preferences of each shadower but the more the group have thought about their choices, the more likely they are to feel satisfied with the result.



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