

ACTIVITIES CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2010

Four short activities for shadowing groups to enjoy together



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards

1 BOOKS ON TRIAL

There's a great mock trial in Terry Pratchett's *Nation*.

Now it's time to put some books on trial! You'll need a judge, a prosecuting lawyer, a defence lawyer, and a jury.

In the dock, choose which book(s) you're going to put on trial. The charge? Being the strongest contender on this year's Carnegie shortlist!

First, the prosecutor has to make her/his case. Explain to the jury why you think your choice of book is the best. Be logical in your argument, and be prepared to back it up with facts! If you like, you can even read a short passage from your chosen book to persuade the jury.

The defender now has to make the case against the book. Try and think of constructive criticism and back up any arguments with examples.

Now it's up to the judge to sum up briefly. And then the jury can vote on whether the book is guilty of being the best on the shortlist!

You can repeat this with as many of the books as you like, but it's best if each time you use different prosecution/defence lawyers each time.

2 BOOK BLURB

What's the first thing you usually read when you read a book jacket? If the answer is the blurb on the back, you'll love this activity.

Without referring to the real blurb on the back (or the inside flap!) of your chosen Carnegie-shortlisted title, try and write a publisher's sales pitch for a book on this year's shortlist.

It shouldn't be more than 100 words long, and it should try and convey the book's highlights.

Try to mention the leading characters and make it sound the best you can so that potential readers will be desperate to get stuck in!

Remember, you'll want to make the book sound as best as possible, but everything you write has to be true...

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3 THREE LITTLE WORDS

This is an activity that works best in pairs. It also helps if you have a box of mini chocolate treats!

First of all, find a partner who has read the same book.

Now, each of you has to write down on a piece of paper three words that sum up the book for you. No cheating, and no conferring allowed!

When you've finished, everyone takes it in turns to read out their three words, one at a time.

If you and your partner have written down the same word, you don't get anything.

If you have written down a word that your partner hasn't written, you get to take one choc!

If you have written down a word that neither your partner, nor anyone else taking part has written down, you get to take two chocs!

At the end, add up the chocs. The pair with the most are the winners!

4 BOOK BLOG

Here's an activity you can do as you read any of the books on the Carnegie shortlist.

As you read the book, jot down any notes and any thoughts you may have about the writing.

It could be about the way the story is told. Images that come to you as you read. Other books it may remind you of, or films or TV shows.

Write down any actors you think might be good playing the main roles if a film were to be made of the story. Or even cut out pictures from magazines of faces that you imagine the main characters to resemble.

Your blog can be a kind of journal, with doodles, drawings, quotes and other ideas and information that occur to you as your read.

Keep a note of the days when you added certain comments, so you can keep track of your blog. See how your feelings change towards certain characters, and how the characters develop as you read.

If you do this as a group activity, you can all share your blogs and pass them around. Did you all feel differently about the books and the characters? On what points did you agree?