

CILIP CARNEGIE SHORTLIST ACTIVITY SHEET

Four short activities for reading groups to enjoy together



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards

1 WHO AM I?

Everyone selects a main character from one of this year's shortlisted Carnegie books.

Write down three clues to describe your character, all based on information from the text. Then, starting with the hardest clue and ending with the easiest, read them out to your group and see how long it takes the others to guess which character you are.

2 AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Conduct some research into the author of one of this year's Carnegie shortlisted books.

Using your local library and the Internet, compile a set of profiles of this year's shortlisted authors. Find out as much as you can about each writer, and include a picture of her/him as well if possible. Try and find out about their backgrounds, i.e. where they come from, what their interests are, etc. Try checking out the publisher's websites for information, and some authors have their own websites too. You could also find newspapers reviews and interviews on the net which may have useful information.

- Has this author been shortlisted for the Carnegie before? Did she/he win?
- How does your research help you reach a better understanding of the book? Have any of them had different jobs before writing children's books? How do you think this influenced their work, if at all?
- If you could ask the author three questions only, what questions would you ask to gain a better

3 ACTING UP

Choose a key scene from one of the shortlisted books and turn it into a mini-drama lasting no longer than 10 minutes.

Think about what you need to adapt it as a mini drama, and what needs to be left out.

Using two members of the group, rehearse the short play and act it out.

- Does the play make you feel differently about the characters?
- Do their words still ring true?
- Does it give you a different perspective on the characters, and the events that take place?

4 THREE-MINUTE DEBATE

Six people each choose a different title from the Carnegie shortlist.

Before the debate, everyone votes (in a secret ballot) for her or his favourite book. Then each of the six takes it in turns to make a case for his or her chosen book in just three minutes – why it should win, what they liked about it, how well it was written, etc.

After all six have made their case, everyone is invited to vote again. Count up the votes and see which book has won.

- Were members of the group swayed by the debate?
- Did anyone change his or her mind?
- Did it change anyone's view of any of the books?