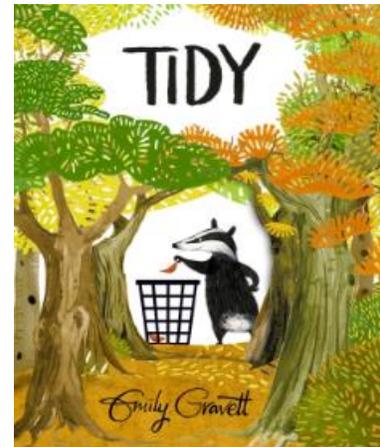


## 2017 Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist Visual Literacy notes

Title: **Tidy**

Illustrator & author: **Emily Gravett**

Publisher: **Too Hoots**



### First look

- Share the book **Tidy** with the group so that everyone has seen and heard the story all the way through.
- Have a second look together at all the images, decorations and other graphic details. At this stage don't tell them too much. Ask them to point out to each other anything that strikes them as interesting about the artwork.
- Chat in pairs or as a group about whether they enjoyed *Tidy*. What did they like or dislike and why?

### Look again

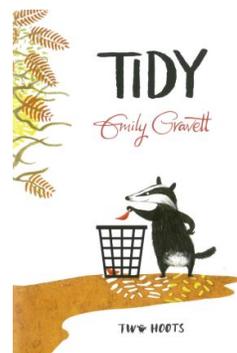
Start with the cover.

Look at the front and the back of the cover. If you have the hard back copy, take the book jacket off and look at the artwork on the inside of the jacket and on the hard book cover. Finally, open the cover to see the end papers.

What can we see through the hole in the covers?

It is the hero of the story, Pete, the badger. What is he doing? Why could he already be described as foolish?

Pete is on the title page. What is the difference between the background behind Pete and on all the other opening and ending pages?



**What did you find hidden in the pictures on the covers?**

... map, squirrel, broom, toilet cleaner, bucket, robin, woodpeckers, scrubbing brush, rabbit, washing up liquid, magpie, vacuum cleaner, rubber gloves, hedgehog? Anything else?

### Colour

- How does the use of colour give you information about the times of year that this story is taking place? For example, what happens during the winter? How do you know?
- Which are the darkest pages? Why do you think the artist made these pages so dark? What feelings do they suggest – positive or negative?
- What differences are there between the colours of the natural features of woodland and the man-made objects and tools?

Woodland is uncultivated. It is naturally uncontrolled. That does not mean it is messy. Every creature and plant will have its appropriate habitat.



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Talk about any all the visual aspects of the book i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' contribute to the overall impact of the book?

### Interpreting the texts

It is always helpful, when studying a book, to use tasks which require imaginative response to encourage students to engage fully with the text. The following suggestions may help the group of young readers to become engaged in this book.

There are themes running through this story which add extra meanings (subtexts) to the book. These themes could be seen as quite complex and unsettling so two sets of suggestions are offered to suit different aged groups of shadows.

### For younger primary pupils

In pairs, go through the book and make a list of all the creatures you can see that live in the woodland (there are at least 15). The list will include birds, insects and animals of all sizes.

Each choose one creature to research (you can use technology as well as books from the library). Make a colourful poster on a piece of A4 paper about your chosen creature.



Which words would you choose to describe what Pete was doing? Which of the blue words would you put in each sentence?

- Pete was being [**clever, silly, fussy, caring**] when he cleared away all the leaves and trees.
- When there were no trees, the rain turned the soil into [**sand, mud, water, ice**] .
- Pete put down concrete. Which animals lost their homes? [**badger, squirrel, fox, snake, rabbit**]

#### Artwork

Look on the internet at Emily Gravett's website [www.emilygravett.com/](http://www.emilygravett.com/) and go to a video in which Emily shows you how to finger paint leaves.

### For older primary and secondary students

How would you describe Pete's behaviour? He seems far too keen on cleaning everything. In reality, how could such behaviour cause serious consequences?

#### Look it up

Use the internet and library to research 'deforestation'. Write a short report or make an A4 poster on what you find out. Does it relate to the simple story in *Tidy*?

#### How many creatures?

ant badger bluetit crow fox hedgehog magpie mole mouse owl pigeon rabbit robin  
snake squirrel woodpecker worm



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